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M. P. EGAN, Business Manager.

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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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The Daily and Weekly Commercial—NEWS PAPER DECISIONS.—1. Any one who takes a paper regularly from the Postoffice—whether directed to his name or another's, or whether he has subscribed or not—is responsible for the payment.

2. If a person orders his papers discontinued, he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made, and collect the whole amount whether the paper is taken from the office or not.

3. The courts have decided that refusing to take Newspapers or Periodicals from the Postoffice, or removing and leaving them uncalled for, is prima facie evidence of intentional fraud.

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FIRST EDITION

THE PUBLIC DEBT

Official Showing for December.

Another Increase of Over $8,000,000.

WASHINGTON, January 2.—Following is an abstract of the Public Debt statement, issued to-day:

PUBLIC DEBT STATEMENT.

Six per cent. bonds	$1,218,788,150
Five per cent. bonds	500,478,800
Total coin bonds	1,724,296,950
Lawful money debt	13,673,009
Matured debt	11,070,980
Legal tender notes	378,481,329
Certificates of deposit	36,720,000
Fractional currency	48,544,797
Coin certificates	27,548,300
Total, without Interest	501,989,431
Total debt	2,249,249,372
Total interest	42,547,025
Cash in Treasury—coin	2,479,109
Cash in Treasury—currency	4,477,851
Special deposits held for the redemption of certificates of deposit as provided by law	36,720,000
Total in Treasury	134,476,961
Debt, less cash in Treasury	2,159,3-5,326
Increase during the month	8,453,372
Bonds issued to Pacific Railroad Company, interest payable in lawful money, principal outstanding	64,623,512
Interest accrued and not paid	3,933 7-5
Interest paid by United States	20,447,996
Interest repaid by transportation of mails, &c	4,663,054
Balance of interest paid by United States	15,781,931

THE STRIKE.

Matters Settling Down to Their Normal Status.

Logansport.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

LOGANSPORT, IND., January 2, 1874.

Everything quiet on the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis Railway and in this section, and all passenger trains and a few freights running to-day. More freights will start as fast as the engines that were tampered with by the strikers can be put in running order. The Indianapolis police officers returned to-day, leaving their Spencer rifles with a guard of citizens, who will act as long as there is any necessity therefor. Engineers are flocking here from all directions to obtain work. Work at the shops has been resumed, and the great strike of the engineers is among the things of the past. There is great rejoicing among the citizens at the resumption of business.

Dennison.

UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER OF STRIKERS.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

DENNISON, O., January 1, 1874.

The strike at this point began showing signs of weakness last night, and this morning the company's offices were thronged by the strikers, all anxious to return to duty on the company's terms. The company is only hiring such of the old engineers as they see fit. Several freight trains have left here to-day in charge of the old engineers, and more will go to-night. It is an unconditional surrender on the part of the strikers.

Crestline.

STRIKE ON THE FORT WAYNE ALL OVER.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

CRESTLINE, O., January 1, 1874.

There was a complete collapse of the strike of the engineers on the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railway at a late hour last night. The strikers, seeming to be animated by a desire to make amends for their bad behavior of the last few days by starting the new year aright, this morning exhibited the gratifying spectacle of every striker surrendering unconditionally and asking for employment at the ten per cent. reduction of pay. It is believed that the company will accept the tendered services of all but two or three of the strikers. A peculiar feature of the situation is the creditable fact of the company's retaining the loyal freight engineers in charge of the passenger engines, which they accepted and ran during the strike; the repentant passenger engineers taking their rank at the bottom of the list and beginning to-day as freight runners. A striking passenger engineer of eighteen years' service in the company took out a freight train this morning, and another passenger runner was the engineer of one of the freights leaving for Alliance to-night. Twenty-one freight trains passed west to-day and nineteen were dispatched eastward. There is a little delay yet, in consequence of the scattered condition of the men and engineers, but by to-morrow the usual routine of the company's business will be attained. A very gratifying feature of the close of the rebellion, is the resumption of work in every department of the company's shops. They begin to-morrow.

Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, January 2.—Counsellors representing the various divisions of the Pennsylvania Railroad met here in secret session to-day. It is understood that it was decided unanimously to submit to a reduction, provided the company will restore the old wages in three months. The Pennsylvania officials state that the strike has practically ended, and that the men are resuming work under the new rule.

Trade and Commerce of St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS, January 1.—All the papers of to-day furnish elaborate reviews of the trade and commerce of the city during the past year. Those of the *Republican* and *Democrat* are especially full, and the latter paper adds a number of large wood cuts, representing the St. Louis bridge, elevators and various conveniences and appliances for the facilitation of transportation of freight by the river route to the seaboard. The edition of this paper is probably the largest ever printed in the West, being upwards of forty thousand copies of a ten page paper, and the presses are still at work. The reviews show a gratifying general increase in business, although in some articles it has been less than last year. The prominent features of the exhibits are the receipts of cotton, 81,983 bales, against 29,436 last year; flour manufactured, 1,449,150 barrels, against 1,294,789 last year; hogs packed since November first, 354,206, against 355,073 last year; receipts of hogs for the year 908,345, against 759,076 last year. The increase of cotton is 2,000 bales, and of lumber 36,000,000 feet. The customs receipts have been $1,408,646, about $300,000 less than last year. The number of steamers plying to and from this port was 170, tonnage 78,717 tons; number of barges 159, tonnage 58,297; total tonnage, 137,004 tons; amount of produce brought to this city by these steamers and barges during the year, 507,500 tons; amount taken to other ports, 647,800 tons. The reviews also present accurate statements of the mining and manufacturing interest, amount of business by railroads centering here, and a very large amount of other information of great value.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

The steamships Ethiopia, from Glasgow, and the City of New York, from Havana, arrived at New York on Thursday.

W. W. Storris, Treasurer of the National Savings Bank at Concord, N. H., has been "irregular" with the bank's funds, according to his own confession, to the amount of $35,000. His sureties will pay the sum to the bank. Storris was also cashier of the First National Bank of Concord.

"Prince" Henry Genet writes to the Board of Directory of the Yorkville Savings Bank, resigning the presidency of that institution.

James Redmond died at his home in Brooklyn, on Thursday, of hydrophobia. He was bitten by a cat some six months ago.

William Banks was beaten to death in a New York grog-shop on Thursday.

The Nashville *Banner*, Tennessee's oldest newspaper, and one of the oldest dailies in the United States, has moved into a large and well fitted new building of its own.

Frederick Clapp, of Jacksboro, Tenn., deposited $2,500 in the safe of the Burnett House, Cincinnati, on Wednesday, and on Thursday morning it was missing. Henry Yeates, one of the clerks of the hotel, and James Carberry, his cousin, are under arrest for the theft, $2,250 dollars having been found in the lining of the latter's coat.

The steamers Plymouth Rock, Jesse Hoyt and Fall River were sold yesterday, at Providence, R. I., for $79,000.

The steamship St. Laurient, from Brest, and City of Antwerp, from Liverpool, arrived at New York yesterday.

The total shipment of wheat from Nebraska, during 1873, was 1,040 cars.

The steamer Cimbria, from Hamburg, arrived at New York last evening.

General Cortina was yesterday installed as Mayor of Matamoras, without disturbance.

One thousand workmen have been discharged from the Brooklyn navy yard.

Pittsburgh Female College and Pittsburgh Conservatory of Music.

The Pittsburgh Female College, which was closed for the holidays, will be open for reception of pupils on Monday morning, January 5, at nine o'clock. The Conservatory of Music, which has just been organized in connection with the College, and under the same management, promises very great success than was at first anticipated. It is proper to note here, in order to correct a mistake into which some have fallen, that it is entirely a new movement, and in no way connected with any other music school. The Conservatory will supply a long felt want, and we doubt not, prove a decided success. Instruction will be given in everything pertaining to music. Eleven eminent instructors have been engaged, and others will be added. For full information concerning the College or Conservatory, address Rev. I. C. Pershing, D. D., Pittsburgh, Pa.

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

Preparing to Peep at Venus.

DISTRIBUTION OF ASTRONOMICAL WORK.

New Year's Day at the Capital.

Chorpenning Memorial Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Proposed Patent Convention.

Pittsburgh the Only City Not Heard From.

The Revised List of Postmasters.

Increase in the Public Debt $8,500,000.

The Financial Prospect and the Remedies Proposed for Our Evils.

REDUCTION IN ESTIMATES BUT TRIFLING.

The Committee Will Cut Them Down

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 1, 1874.

The Transit of Venus.

The preparations of the Naval Observatory for the transit of Venus on December 8, 1874, are progressing. The transits and clocks have been received, and the photographic corps is engaged daily in practising with the instruments specially constructed for the important work of taking two hundred views of the transit. The disposition of the astronomical work at the proposed stations, as far as decided, is as follows: Two officers from the Naval Observatory, Professors Harkness and Hall; one from the Coast Survey, George Davidson senior assistant, and the other not determined upon; one from the army, not yet detailed; one from the navy, Lieutenant Commander Ryan, head of the Department of Physics and Chemistry of the United States Naval Academy; two civilians, Professors Watson, of Ann Arbor Observatory, Michigan, and Peters, of Hamilton College, New York. In addition to these chief astronomers, each party will consist of one assistant and three photographers. The astronomers will assemble here in April for practice with the instruments. The four parties for the Southern Hemisphere will leave in June, and the four for the Northern in August.

The New Year's Calls

to-day were more popular than ever. The President's reception was one of the most brilliant since his residence at the Executive Mansion. The Cabinet, Diplomatic Corps, Supreme Court, Senators and Representatives in the city, and the army and navy were out in full force, and were followed by a throng of civilians. The Cabinet receptions also attracted a large share of attention. There was an entire suspension of public business.

The Chorpenning Claim.

Mr. Cessna, it appears, did after all refer his Chorpenning memorial to the Committee on the Judiciary, of which he is a member. After his speech on the last day of the session before the recess, he said he would withdraw the memorial, as he had not determined what reference to make of it. Mr. Beck had previously made the point that it ought not to go to the Judiciary Committee, as Mr. Cessna was a member thereof. Mr. Cessna, however, availing himself of the privilege which allows petitions to be referred, on the Clerk's desk without reading them in open House, had it referred to the very committee which had been objected to.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 2, 1874.

The Coming Patent Convention.

The permanent committee appointed by the International Patent Congress having issued a call for a patent convention in this city on the 15th of the present month, a meeting of gentlemen interested was held in the office of the Commissioner of Patents this afternoon. The following Committee of Arrangements was appointed: Judge Advocate General Holt, P. Chipman, Delegate in Congress; Chief Engineer Wood, Bureau of Steam Engineering, Navy Department; M. Thacher, Assistant Commissioner of Patents, and Messrs. Stansberry, Dyer, Wood, Stoughton, and Whitman. Communications have already been received from all the large cities except Pittsburgh, which indicate that at least three hundred delegates will be present. The President of the New England Patent Association, recently organized, will appoint fifteen delegates from each of those States. The hall, of the District Legislature has been tendered for the sitting of the Commission.

The List of Postmasters

of the United States, revised and corrected to January 1st, 1874, was sent to the public printer to-day, and will be ready by the first of March. The list comprises about thirty-four thousand postoffices. There is also a separate list, for the first time prepared, of money order offices, three thousand in number, which will also include Canadian postoffices in Great Britain, Germany and Switzerland, established under postal conventions with those countries.

The Public Debt Statement

for December shows an increase of eight and one-half millions. Of the loan of 1858 already matured, but one million has been exchanged for the new five per cents., as authorized by act of Congress. Up to date twenty-two and one-half millions of the reserves have been issued. The Secretary to-day informed Senators and Members who visited the department, that the expenditures would continue to exceed the receipts, and when the remainder of the reserve, twenty and one-half millions, was issued, the day-books would foot up on the wrong side, and something would have to be done, whether by taxation, inflation or a loan, he said it was for Congress to decide. Inflation is fivored by the Western members. The objection to a loan is that many will be in difficulty in satisfactorily negotiating. The Secretary supposed that inflation would be more popular than taxation.

No Reductions of Estimates.

The Committee on Appropriations have come to the conclusion that having waited till to-day, and no reduction of any consequence having been made by the heads of departments, they will make their own reductions, or, as one member stated it to-day, to "make the departments conform to the cut of the cloth as Congress should cut it." As a consequence, a lively fight is expected in the House over all the appropriation bills involving a local question, as each member will endeavor to cut down the appropriation of the other, in order to save his own, in accordance with the estimate. The committee held an informal meeting to-night at the residence of the chairman, and to-morrow the sub-committee will report progress.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 1, 1874.

RECEPTION AT THE EXECUTIVE MANSION.

The President and Mrs. Grant held their usual New Year's reception to-day, aided by Cabinet officers and their wives. After the reception of foreign representatives and home officials in the usual order, the veterans of 1812 were received, and at two o'clock P. M. the doors were thrown open to the general public.

DEATH OF GENERAL SWEET.

General B. J. Sweet, Deputy Commissioner of Internal Revenue, died here this morning after an illness of nine days, of pneumonia, superinduced by typhoid fever. His body has been embalmed, and will be sent West to-morrow evening.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue has issued an order announcing the death of Deputy Commissioner Sweet, and directing, as a proper and fitting testimonial of respect to the memory of deceased, that William O. Avery, chief clerk, and John B. Taylor, head of the division in the bureau, shall accompany the body from this city to its final resting place. With the assent of the Secretary of the Treasury, it is directed that the transaction of official business in the Internal Revenue office be suspended on the day on which the funeral takes place.

The remains of General Sweet left here tonight for Chicago.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 2, 1874.

THE FRANKLIN AND HER COMMANDER.

The United States has not lost a frigate-built vessel since 1798—the "insurgent," captured from the French, fitted out and sent to sea, but never heard from since. Captain Simpson, who commanded the Franklin, is one of the best officers of the navy, and a skillful navigator.

INCREASE OF THE PUBLIC DEBT.

The increase of the debt since June 30, 1873, is $11,496,612.

LEGAL TENDERS.

The outstanding legal tenders amount to $378,491,702.

NO INDEMNITY FOR THE VIRGINIUS.

No official information has been received confirmatory of the report from Madrid respecting the indemnity to be demanded by the Spanish government in the case of the Virginius, nor is it probable that any such claim will be presented. If at any future time a bill of damages should be presented, payment would, there is good ground for stating, be refused, on the principle established by the Geneva Tribunal in disallowance of indirect or consequential damages. The preparation of the Virginius correspondence will be completed to-morrow, and may be sent to Congress on Monday next. It is represented to be voluminous.

ANOTHER DEMAND FOR MONEY.

An appropriation by Congress of nearly two million dollars, gold, will be required in satisfaction of claims allowed by the late United States and British commission.

THE STEAMSHIP FRANKLIN AT KEY WEST.

The United States steamship Franklin, reported lost, has arrived at Key West.

EUROPE.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

England.

THE ASHANTEES ROUTED—HUNDREDS OF THEM DROWNED.

LONDON, January 1.—Latest advices from Cape Coast Castle report that Sir Garnet Wolseley has advanced seventy miles into the interior, the Ashantees flying before him. Advices from Cape Coast Castle to December 15, report that the Ashantees were driven across the river Prah, re-entering their own territory in great disorder. They left a large number of dead and wounded on the bank of the river. Wolseley was in pursuit with five hundred soldiers. The troop ships Himalaya and Tamar had arrived, and everything was ready for an advance upon Coomassie.

LONDON January 2.—A special to the *Daily Telegraph* says three hundred Ashantees were drowned in the river Prah, in their flight before Sir Garnet Wolseley.

INCREASE IN SPECIE.

The specie in the Bank of England has increased during the week £496,000.

CHURCH AND STATE IN GERMANY.

A Berlin telegram to the *Daily Telegraph* says the government has absolutely resolved to abstain from any interference with the inner ecclesiastical organization of the dioceses during their struggle with the Romish Church, and to confine its action to rigorously repelling any encroachments of bishops upon State rights. The existing proscriptions respecting the administration of dioceses when bishoprics are vacant, will serve for cases in which prelates shall be turned out by the government. These dioceses left without a head will be administered by the General Vicar, who will, in his turn, be deposed, should he not comply with the letter of the statutes. The government is quite aware that these measures will engender an inconceivable confusion in the diocesan administration, but hopes thereby to compel the clergy to a compliance with the law. The new form of oath of allegiance to be subscribed to by the future appointed bishops, is framed in terms binding, and is subscribed to absolute submission to the State. And it is officially assumed that the Vatican will not permit the Episcopal candidates to take it. The Rhenish and Westphalian bishops are certain to oppose the Imperial Parliament, and they will certainly be elected. The government, however, is entirely indifferent with regard to this manœuvre.

INVESTIGATION OF THE VILLE DU HAVRE DISASTER—CAPTAIN OF THE LOCH EARN ACQUITTED OF BLAME.

LONDON, January 1.—The investigation into the Ville du Havre disaster was continued to-day. A deposition from Captain Surmont was read. He attributes the collision to lack of judgment in steering both vessels. A deposition was read from the lookout on board the steamship, declaring he saw no lights on the Loch Earn until after the collision. He also says the Loch Earn did not alter her course at all. The carpenter's apprentice of the Loch Earn reiterated the story that the mate of the latter vessel threatened to fire upon the Frenchmen because of their refusal aid their comrades. He also testified to the dryness of Captain Surmont's clothing when he came on board the ship.

LONDON, January 2.—The investigation of the Ville du Havre disaster continued to-day. Captain Robertson of the Loch Earn, testified. He denied that the charges against Captain Surmont emanated from him. He declared that he was incapable of taking away such a brave man's character. Applications were made for an adjournment of the proceedings until French witnesses could attend, but it was subsequently withdrawn. Mr. Bant, on behalf of the officers of the Loch Earn, argued that the Loch Earn was to blame, but the negligence on the steamer was probably due to the continuous watch kept during the three previous foggy days. The court unanimously decided that Captain Robertson was blameless.

RETURN OF GENERAL SCHENCK.

LONDON, January 3.—General Schenck, the American Minister, has returned to London.

ELECTION TO PARLIAMENT.

Eliot Yorke, Conservative, has been returned to Parliament, from Cambridgeshire, without opposition.

Spain.

PROGRESS OF THE BOMBARDMENT OF CARTAGENA.

MADRID, January 1.—On Tuesday night a shell from the besieging batteries of Cartagena set fire to the insurgent iron-clad Tetuan, in the harbor of Cartagena. After burning for three hours the fire reached the magazine, which exploded with tremendous force, damaging the vessel seriously.

Another extensive fire, accompanied by a terrible explosion, has occurred at Cartagena.

RELATIONS OF SALMERON AND CASTELAR.

Deputies to the Cortes are endeavoring to reconcile the differences between Salmeron and President Castelar.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPRESSED.

Marshal Serrano is endeavoring to secure the removal of General Moriones from the command of the Republican forces in Catalonia. The government has suppressed several newspapers of Federal proclivities.

CASTELAR MEDITATES A COUP D'ETAT.

LONDON, January 3.—Special telegrams to the morning papers, from Madrid, intimate that Castelar will attempt a *coup d'etat* if outvoted in the Cortes.

CAPTURE OF A FORT BEFORE CARTAGENA.

MADRID, January 2.—The besiegers of Cartagena have captured by assault and burned the outlying fort of Calvario.

Fenece.

COMMUNISTS SENTENCED.

VERSAILLES, January 1.—The court martial sitting for the trial of Communists has condemned six more of them to death, four of them being in contumacium.

Russia.

GOOD OFFICES OF THE AMERICAN LEGATION.

LONDON, January 3.—A special to the *Daily Telegraph* from St. Petersburg, says that the article in the treaty between Russia and Bokhara, abolishing slavery, is directly due to the exertions of Secretary Schuyler and all the members of the American Legation at St. Petersburg.

European Markets.

LONDON, January 2.—Rate of discount in open market for three months' bills 4 per cent., or ½ below bank rate. Amount of bullion gone into the Bank of England on balance to-day, £17,000. Consols for money 91¾; for account 91¾@92; 5-20s of '65, 105; do '67, 107¼; 10-40s, 106¾; new 5s, 108¾; New York Central 92; Erie 44; Erie preferred 66. Refined petroleum 13½@13¾d. Tallow 41s 6d. Turpentine 31s 3d.

PARIS, January 2.—Rentes 58 francs 30 centimes.

FRANKFORT, January 2.—5-20's of '62 97⅝.

LIVERPOOL, January 2.—Cotton quiet and steady; middling uplands, 8 3-16d; Orleans, 8 3-16d; sales 10,000 bales; American 2,500 bales; speculation and export 2,000 bales. Breadstuffs quiet. Corn 37s 6d. Cheese, 60s 6d. Cumberland middles 39s 6d; short rib middles 37s. Receipts of wheat the past three days, 32,000 quarters, of which 17,000 were American.

ANTWERP, January 2.—Refined petroleum 30 francs.

POLITICAL.

REPUBLICAN VICTORY IN MEMPHIS.

MEMPHIS, January 2.—The entire Republican ticket was elected yesterday. The majority for John Logue for Mayor is about eight hundred, while the majorities for Fred. Schaser for Tax Collector, and Ed. Shaw (colored) for Wharfmaster, are much larger. The vote polled was very light in many of the wards, and not more than half the whites registered voted.

MEETING OF THE VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE—GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

RICHMOND, VA., January 1.—The Legislature convened at noon to-day. After organization both Houses went into Joint session to canvas the vote for Governor. Gen. J. L. Kemper was officially stated at 27,239, and Withers's 27,546. The Governor's message was then received and read. Of the relation between the races he says: I do not hesitate to affirm, so encouraging and decisive has been the progress of the last four years, so clearly developed by the past are the obligations of to-day, that if we were but guided by Providence, if we go forward with courage tempered with forbearance, and no Federal legislation shall intervene to disturb the relations between the races, we cannot fail to bring our great experiment to a successful and prosperous issue. Recent events prove how futile and how disastrous to its authors must be any future attempt to array the colored race as a political combination upon any principle of antagonism between the races, and further, that non-residents whatever their claim to eminence, ability or philanthropy, can never understand the character and circumstances or safely minister to the wants of our colored population. Ourselves and none others are qualified to perform the task assigned us by Providence, not restrained and hampered by superior power. We will perform our duty resolutely and effectually by protecting the best interests of both races. We intend to perform it by scrupulously guarding the newly acquired rights of the colored man.

Bishop R. S. Foster, of the Methodist Episcopal church, who is to be resident Bishop in Cincinnati, had a reception last evening, in Wesley chapel, of that city.

Inducements Offered

for cash and to prompt men at the Checkered Front, 25 cents per barrel on flour, and 1 per cent on other goods if paid in ten days. See advertisement.

Episcopal Classical Academy

re-opens Monday next

BLAIRSVILLE, PA.

Two Establishments Closed by the Sheriff—Band Concert.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

BLAIRSVILLE, PA., January 2, 1874.

The house of B. D. Coleman was closed by the sheriff last night. His liabilities are large, assets undetermined.

J. Y. McLaughlin, of Saltsburg, was closed by the sheriff to-day.

The concert given for the benefit of the cornet band, last night, was a complete success, the receipts being two hundred dollars.

LOCK HAVEN, PA.

Boy Drowned—Suspensions of Payments and Business.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

LOCK HAVEN, PA., January 2, 1874.

Charles Harr, a lad of sixteen, was drowned in the river while skating on Wednesday. He was the son of a widow, and her main dependence.

H. W. Jacoby, dry goods merchant, of this city, has suspended; also, G. W. Givens, of Renovo. The latter is the third suspension at Renovo within three weeks. The reduction of business in the railroad shops is the chief cause.

FIRE RECORD.

Business Block Destroyed at Upper Big Rapids, Mich.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

UPPER BIG RAPIDS, MICH., January 2, 1874.

Early this morning a fire was discovered in the building owned by Bronson, Strickler & Co. The building was very large, being occupied by grocery and dry goods stores, the Exchange bank and a millinery store. The upper floors were devoted to offices. The building was entirely destroyed, and goods damaged to a very great extent. The loss on the building is about ten thousand dollars, and on contents about five thousand, all covered by insurance. The fire originated from coals dropped from a stove which had no grate under it.

Alarming Incendiarism at Xenia.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

XENIA, O., January 2, 1874.

Our city seems doomed to be destroyed by fire, unless some night-prowling scoundrels are arrested soon. Last week two stables were burned, and on Monday night of this week the livery stable of Mr. Fifer, all doubtless the work of incendiaries. On the same night the livery stable was burned, many of the horses were taken from the livery stable of Mr. Routzong, when, late in the night, some persons were discovered trying to set his stable on fire, and the incendiaries were fired upon three or four times, none of the shots, however, taking effect. On last night the same person, doubtless, set fire to the new oil mill of Harbine Brothers. They had carried straw and shavings and piled them in the oil cake and set fire to it, but fortunately the fire was discovered before it had made any progress. Various other attempts have been made, but were discovered, and the fires extinguished before damage was done.

Hotel, Newspaper Office, Stores, &c., Burned in Paris, Mo.

ST. LOUIS, January 2.—The Glenn House, *Appeal* newspaper office, and several stores and shops in Paris, Monroe county, Missouri, were burned Wednesday morning. The loss is heavy, but the amount is not reported.

Kansas City, Mo.

KANSAS CITY, MO., January 2.—A fire near the Union depot, in this city, destroyed six wooden houses. The loss is about $12,000.

The Western University.

The professors and pupils of the University, having enjoyed their holiday vacation, will resume their duties on Monday morning. The institution is enjoying an unwonted degree of prosperity and making itself felt as a promoter of good in this community.

PITTSBURGH, CINCINNATI & ST. LOUIS R. R. CO. } PITTSBURGH, December 29, 1873. }

Notice.

WHEREAS, It is believed that the present strike is the result of conspiracy to prevent the public from using the lines owned and operated by this company and, whereas, it is desirable that all persons engaged in such conspiracy should be promptly punished. It is therefore ordered by this company that a reward of one thousand dollars will be paid for the arrest and conviction of each person engaged in any conspiracy against the interests of this company in connection with the present difficulties that exist upon these roads.

J. N. MCCULLOUGH, General Manager.

PITTSBURGH, CINCINNATI & ST. LOUIS RAILWAY CO. } PITTSBURGH, December 29, 1873. }

A reward of one thousand dollars is offered for information that will secure the arrest and conviction of the parties who have recently obstructed the track, thrown open switches, stolen engines and cars, misplaced switches, and damaged the property or diminished the conveyances of the lines.

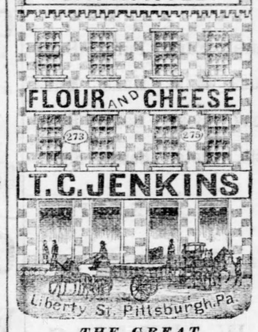
J. N. MCCULLOUGH, General Manager.

New Patent.

The Great White River Flour is now being made under a new patent and is said to be giving general satisfaction. It is now the leading brand in this market.

Buckwheat Flour.

25,000 pounds new hulled buckwheat flour, guaranteed to be very choice, for sale. Send your orders to David Bills & Son, (Penn Mills,) Indiana, Pa.



THE GREAT

Flour, Grocery and Tea House

THE ONLY House that Handles

The Great WHITE RIVER, bbls. and bags.
JENKINS'S LILLY MILL'S, bbls. and bags.
JENKINS'S SNOW FLAKE, bbls. and bags.
JAVA FLAVORED ROAST COFFEE.

TERMS:

Thirty days time allowed good and prompt men, or 2½ cents per barrel Discount on Flour allowed, and case per other Goods, if paid in ten days from date of shipment.

☞ No Charge for Drayage.

☞ Inducements offered to Cash Buyers.

☞ *Advertisements on this page, under the several heads of* WANTED, FOR SALE, FOR RENT, *&c., will be inserted at transient rates only—*TEN CENTS *per line for each insertion. No advertisement less than* FIFTY CENTS.

WANTED.

WANTED—CHAIN MAKERS—TEN first class Chain Makers, at Niles, Trumbull county, Ohio. Niles Chain Co.

WANTED—WAREHOUSE—A WAREhouse, with Basement, Dry and Smithfield street, on First avenue. Address Lock Box 344.

WANTED—PARTNER—A PARTNER with Fifty Thousand Dollars capital, to join the advertiser in a profitable business. For full particulars address Partner, Commercial office.

WANTED—SITUATION—A POSITION as Bookkeeper or Assistant. Bookkeeper, Collector, by a young man competent and willing to make himself useful generally. Address P. L. Leader office.

WANTED—80 COAL MINERS; MARried men preferred. Contractors can be supplied with good workmen. Colored miners wanted. Good and general housework girls also. Also seamstresses. Apply at Employment office, No. 1 Sixth street, Pittsburgh.

WANTED — PURCHASERS — FOR Mineral Coal and Timber Lands, in tracts from 1,000 to 100,000 acres each in the States of Arkansas, Tennessee, East and West Virginia and Kentucky. These lands are well located on navigable streams, accessible to railroads, and will be sold low for cash or exchanged for property. Correspond at the market value, by applying to P. C. REVY, 76 Smithfield street, Pittsburgh, Pa. Pennsylvania, Missouri and Michigan Pine Lands made a specialty.

FOR SALE.

FOR SALE—BELTING AND HOSE—Pure Oak Tanned Leather Belting and Hose, at HARTLEY, MCKEE & CO'S, 58 Smithfield street.

FOR SALE—PUMPS AND CALLS—ON twelve New York Stocks; $44.0 will buy privileges for 100 shares for 30 days. For full information call on or address C. A. SNOW & CO., No. 5 KAUFMAN Broker, Fifth avenue, Pittsburgh.

FOR SALE—SECOND-HAND MACHINERY—One 24 inch Rogers Surfacer; 1 No. 1 Ball Moulder, 2 sides; one 20 inch Daniels Planer; one 20 inch Fenders, all in good order. M. S. GOODMAN & CO., 124 Liberty street.

FOR SALE—A. S. CAMERON & CO.'S Steam Pumps, suitable for every purpose to which Steam Power can be applied, having been largely introduced during the past year, and for which a large market. ATWOOD & MCCAFFREY, corner Third avenue and Grant street, Pittsburgh, Pa.

FOR SALE—ENGINES AND BOILERS—New and Second-hand, of all sizes. Stationary and Portable. Also, Saw Mills, Shingle Machines, &c. JAMES HILL & CO., corner Marion avenue and P., Ft. W. & C. R. R., Allegheny Pa.

FOR SALE—WELL ESTABLISHED HOtel—The Proprietor of the old and well-known "St. Charles Hotel," Pittsburgh, desires to sell his fine brick, etc., of that established, also of the well furnished Restaurant attached. The house is well supplied with everything needed in carrying on a first class hotel. Apply, or address, HARRY SHIELDS, Pittsburgh.

WANTED--AGENTS.

WANTED—AGENTS—TO SELL MY Rubber Mats in the States of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Ohio, &c. Territory reserved to Good Agents. $5 to $10 per day easily made. Particulars free. G. A. HARPER, 61 Vine street, Cleveland, Ohio.

FOR RENT.

FOR RENT—THE SECOND STORY OF a Warehouse on Liberty street, with good office, address Box R, this office.

FOR RENT—A HANDSOME COTTAGE House, 12 Rooms, with Gas and Water, at 156 Fifth avenue, Twentieth ward. Also, Storeroom, Office and Lo gs Hall in new buildings, Penn avenue below Eleventh street. Also, Rooms and Offices in Carr's Block, Fifth avenue, New Wood street. Apply at 327 Liberty street, to WILLIAM CARR.

FOR RENT—TWO DWELLING HOUSES of four rooms each, on Mary street, one of five rooms on John street, one of three rooms on Woodside's alley, one of four rooms on Thirty-eighth street. Immediate possession given. Apply to G. W. RANKIN, Real Estate Agent, 104 Fifth avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa.

ELECTION NOTICES.

ARSENAL BANK—AN ELECTION for Twelve Directors of this Bank, to serve for the ensuing year, will be held at the Banking House on TUESDAY, January 13, 1874, between the hours of 10 A. M. and 2 P. M.

J. W. TAYLOR, Cashier.

Pittsburgh, January 3, 1874.

CITY BANK—THE ANNUAL ELECTION for Directors of this Bank will be held at the Banking House on TUESDAY, January 13, 1874, between the hours of 10 A. M. and 2 P. M.

J. W. TAYLOR, Cashier.

Pittsburgh, January 3, 1874.

OFFICE SAFE DEPOSIT COMPANY OF PITTSBURGH—The annual Election for Nine Directors of this Company, will be held on TUESDAY, January 13, 1874, between the hours of 12 o'clock A. M. and 1 o'clock P. M., at their Building, No. 85 Fourth avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa.

S. F. VON BONNHORST, Treas. and Sec'y.

Pittsburgh, January 2, 1874.

DUQUESNE BANK—THE Annual Election for Ten Directors to serve for the ensuing year will be held at the banking House, on MONDAY, January 12th, 1874, between the hours of 10 A. M. and 2 P. M.

A. H. PATTERSON, Cashier.

January 2, 1874.

MANSFIELD COAL AND COKE COMPANY—ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION—The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Mansfield Coal and Coke Company will be held at the office of the Secretary, No. 31 Fifth avenue, second floor, office of the Edgar Thomson Steel Works, on WEDNESDAY January 28th, 1874, at 2 o'clock P. M., for the purpose of electing a Board of Directors for the ensuing year, and act upon such other business as may be brought before the meeting.

WM. P. SHINN, Secretary.

December 27th, 1873.

OFFICE OF THE PEOPLE'S INSURANCE CO., corner of fifth avenue and Wood street—An Election for Twelve Directors of this Company, to serve for the ensuing year, will be held at this office on MONDAY, January 12th, 1874, between the hours of 10 A. M. and 2 P. M.

W. A. GARDNER, Secretary.

Pittsburgh, January 1, 1874.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK, PITTSBURGH, PA.—An Election for Nine Directors of this Bank will be held on the SECOND TUESDAY of January, 1874, between the hours of 11 A. M. and 2 P. M., at the Banking House, corner Wood and Fifth streets.

J. D. SCULLY, Cashier.

Pittsburgh, Pa., December 24, 1873.

GERMANIA INSURANCE COMPANY, Office, Fifth Avenue and Wood street, 1873—An Election for Nine Directors for Twelve months to serve for the ensuing year, will be held at this office on MONDAY, January 5th, 1874, between the hours of 10 o'clock A. M. and 2 o'clock P. M.

ROBERT ARMS, Secretary.

BANK OF INDUSTRY—THE Annual Election for Directors of this Bank will be held at the Banking House, TUESDAY, the 6th day of January, 1874, between the hours of 10 A. M. and 2 P. M.

M. HANRAHAN, Cashier.

December 30, 1873.

THE IRON CITY NATIONAL BANK OF PITTSBURGH—The Annual Election for Thirteen Directors of this Bank will be held at the Banking House, on TUESDAY, January 13, 1874, between the hours of 1 and 3 P. M.

GEO. H. DUNCAN, Cashier.

Pittsburgh, December 13, 1873.

TEUTONIA INSURANCE COMPANY, 2046 East Ohio street, Germania Savings Bank Building—An Election for Directors of this company, to serve during the ensuing year, will be held at the Company's Office on MONDAY, January 12th, 1874, between the hours of 10 A. M. and 2 P. M.

JENKY E. ROGERS, Secretary.

Allegheny, Pa., December 30, 1873.

COLUMBIA O

The Daily Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 1874.

A VIRULENT Bourbon paper imagines one of the principal compensations of a rigorous climate to be that it is apt "to freeze the fools." This may possibly explain why the sheet in question is published in a Southern State.

THE agile artists of the Congressional political arena will reassemble on Monday. It is to be hoped that body will display a little more moral dignity than it has yet shown; especially let there be no more miserable haggling for its back-pay swag, like JUDAS compounding his wretched pieces of silver.

THE Farmers and Mechanics' Bank of Philadelphia, which is the fiscal agent of the Commonwealth, gives notice to holders of ten thousand dollars and under of the 5-10 years of six per cent. State loan, known as the first series, that interest on such loans will cease on the last day of April next, and that the loan, with accrued interest, will be redeemed forthwith on presentation at that bank.

ALL the indications are to the effect that our trade with Europe for the remaining portion of the winter will be unusually brisk; produce, in particular, being greatly needed there. New York papers state that supplies from the West are coming forward in excess of any previous season, the railroads having their carrying capacity fairly strained in the transportation of provisions and breadstuffs.

UNDER the laws of Congress it is a crime to obstruct trains carrying the United States mails, punishable with imprisonment in the penitentiary. The Postmaster General has given instructions to proceed at once against all persons who have obstructed the mails during the present engineers' strike. Some of them will find that the consequences are considerably graver than was at first imagined.

THE aggregate grain receipts at the Western lake ports during the past year were 173,520,993 bushels, including flour reduced to bushels, which shows a large and steady increase over former years. In the year 1870 the receipts at the same ports amounted to 111,281,749 bushels; in 1871, 130,023,953 bushels, and in 1872 144,466,536 bushels. Sixty-six per cent. of these receipts passed to the seaboard via Buffalo.

IT is to be hoped that the opposition press will now cease their idiotic twaddle about the dangers of Cæsarism. President GRANT declared, in a recent conversation with a friend, that he would not under any circumstances consent to be a candidate for a third term. He states further that he only consented to be a candidate for the present term at the earnest solicitation of his friends, and because it was attempted to drive him out of the contest.

SUPPOSING it to be true, as an obsequious Washington correspondent asserts, that General BUTLER is "an orator of wonderful power, with eloquence as keen as a Damascus blade," does that make him any the less a demagogue? Of a far greater orator than BUTLER it is written:

"His tongue
Dropp'd manna, and could make the worse appear
The better reason, to perplex and dash
Maturest counsels."

The remainder of the description may be found in MILTON'S "Paradise Lost."

A PROPHET is not without honor, save in his own country. BRADLAUGH, the voluble English agitator, having assumed in his lectures in this country to speak in the name and as the leader of the English Republican movement, a formal meeting of representatives of "the brotherhood" has lately been held in London, at which resolutions were passed emphatically repudiating his pretended leadership, and explicitly declaring that he possesses no authority whatever to speak in its behalf. In this country people would call such a procedure a pretty severe snub.

WHAT exalted ideas of statesmanship, and conceptions of duty, some men have! BEN-BUTLER gleefully exclaims that he has "got this salary question just where he wants it," for the reason that both the HOARS have committed themselves, and now neither of them can assume superior virtue to himself on the subject. Viewed from the standpoint of the mere trafficking politician, this sort of strategy may seem wonderfully astute; but that system of ethics, and that kind of ambition, which can lead a man to plot for and rejoice over the downfall of others, is worthy of nothing so much as of the bottomless pit.

THE New York correspondent of the Philadelphia *Ledger* writes:

The great strike of the railroad engineers continues to excite much attention. *Private dispatches from Pittsburgh, this afternoon, represent that pretty much all trains and travel with the country round about there has been suspended*, and that the out-look for a compromise is not promising.

The "private dispatches" were sadly in error. There was not an hour, during the entire strike, that travel with the country round about was suspended. The accommodation trains arrived and departed regularly, every day, and the through trains were but little interfered with.

WENDELL PHILLIPS may possibly be a long way in advance of the average intelligence of the age; but he is a long way behind a good many less brilliant men, as respects the political confidence reposed in him by his neighbors. He recently undertook to run for an Aldermanic office in Boston, and was defeated by eleven thousand votes. Notwithstanding his admitted incorruptibility, his immense treasures of knowledge and his superb intellectual ability, his marked defects of judgment cause him to be generally distrusted by those who are most solicitous for the steady and healthful advancement of practical, utilitarian reform.

WE OBSERVE that some disappointment is expressed in various quarters because the abolition of the franking privilege has not had the effect to augment the postal revenue, as was anticipated would be the case. It should be remembered, however, that the new plan has been in operation only nine months, and that the time of year when the principal expense attaching to the privilege has not occurred—the abolition having taken effect only during the Congressional recess, when the expense is always comparatively low. Not till the end of the fiscal year can it be fairly decided whether the repeal has saved money to the government.

THE Supreme Court of New York has just rendered a decision which is of considerable importance to insurers. A certain company insured a policy holder to the amount of fifteen thousand dollars, and afterwards reinsured the writ in another company. The latter policy contained two clauses—one loss, if any, payable pro rata with the reassured; the other, reinsurance in case of loss to be settled in proportion as the sum reinsured should bear to the whole sum covered by the reinsured company. In consequence of the Chicago fire the first company having become insolvent, the second claimed to be liable only to the extent of the percentage paid to the creditors of the insolvent company. The court holds that the reinsurer is bound to pay the sum which the original insurer was liable to pay, and was bound to pay even before the reinsured had made any payment whatever on the policy insured by it.

SOME weeks ago we called attention to a suit then pending in the United States Court in Chicago, which involved the important question as to whether a National bank can be put in bankruptcy. The petitioners alleged that they were creditors of the Manufacturers' National Bank of that city, claiming that it had committed an act of bankruptcy in suspending payment of its checks and other paper for a period of fourteen days, and asking for the usual rule to show cause. Inasmuch, however, as the question had never before arisen, the court decided to hear arguments on each side before granting the usual rule to show cause. The arguments occupied several days, and engaged some of the best legal talent of the city. The main point at issue was, whether the Bankruptcy act of 1867 superseded the Currency act of 1864, in winding up banking institutions. The decision of the court, which was reserved until last Wednesday, is to the effect that the bankruptcy law does not apply to National banks, and that the bank must be wound up under the Currency act, which contains ample provisions to cover the exigencies of the case. The case is to be appealed.

PENNSYLVANIA, under the provision of the new Constitution allowing women to hold any office to which men are eligible under the school laws of the State, will present the singular spectacle of permitting those to hold office who cannot cast a vote. The right to hold office has generally been regarded as growing out of the right to vote; and certainly no one was ever before permitted to exercise official power who could not claim, as foremost among his qualifications, that of being a qualified voter.

We do not object to women holding office under the school laws; but we *do* object to depriving them, at the same time, of the right to to vote. If a woman is fit to serve as school director, and is able to discharge the duties of that place, she is fit, also, to vote; and to open the one door to her, while shutting the other, is as grossly unfair as it is illogical.

The office of school director carries with it, in its limited jurisdiction, both legislative and executive power. The school board levies the taxes necessary for the support of the schools, under its care, fixes the rate of taxation, collects the money through its agents, and spends it, and exercises a thorough control over the schools. The jurisdiction is small; but the power is large, and carries with it great responsibilities; and to say that it is right and fit to entrust this power to a woman—to give her the right to levy taxes and vote supplies—and yet deny to her the ballot, it is a monstrous injustice. A woman may say what money shall be raised for schools, and how it shall be spent; but she may not say who shall sit in counsel with her or who shall make the laws under which she acts!

When the people can work themselves up to the point of conceding to woman the power to hold office, they may as well make up their minds to go the whole figure and make her a voter as well as an office-holder. Consistency requires that the principle involved should be carried out in its completeness.

DISTINGUISHED DEAD OF 1873.

Glancing back over the past year to recall the names of the distinguished people who in the course of it finished their earthly career, one's first impression regards their assumed multitude. We remember, week after week, to have heard of the deaths of persons who were represented as illustrious and memorable, and we fancy that the aggregate list for the entire year must be a very long one. On reflection, however, and recollecting how limited and faint most reputations really are, it would seem that the catalogue might be very short without striking average readers as grossly inadequate. Of the imperial and royal persons who died during the year, the ex-Emperor, LOUIS NAPOLEON, was the only one whose fame could be said to be world-wide, and in whom some interest was felt on this side of the Atlantic. Prince ADALBERT, of Prussia, was known and will be remembered not as a prince, but as an eminent naturalist and traveler. King JOHN, of Saxony, though a respectable ruler, was better known and will be longer remembered in foreign countries as the translator of DANTE and as a patron of literature than as a king. Of magistrates and statesmen lately deceased, ex-Governor GEARY, Chief Justice CHASE, Lord WESTBURY, ex-Chancellor of England, RATAZZI, of Italy, and Senator YATES, the famous war-Governor of Illinois, are best worthy of mention, as most American readers would miss their names in the list.

All, or nealy all, persons interested *in religious affairs and in contemporary* church history would miss the name of the Hon. and Rev. BAPTIST W. NOEL, an aristocrat by birth and a clergyman of the English Church, with all sorts of preferment in prospect, who, becoming convinced that an Established Church as it exists in England, is an enormous evil, and also satisfied that pedo-baptism has no sufficient warrant in the Holy Scriptures, left the establishment and joined the Babtists. His secession caused immense excitement at the time, and the dissenting body he joined hoped for a great accession of influence from his adhesion. However, the practical results of his change were not important, and the book in which he assailed the English Church and vindicated his own course was pretty generally thought a failure. Bishop MCILVAINE, of Ohio, will long be remembered with respect and affection, not only in his own denomination, but by all in other denominations who reverence piety and worth. Bishop WILBERFORCE, universally known in England, had no slight fame in this country also, partly derived from his father, and in part the result of his own literary labors. The Rev. JOHN TODD, of the Congregationalist body, was widely known as a writer of books, and as a popular preacher. His "Student's Manual" has had a great circulation even in Great Britain, while few American collegians of the last thirty years have failed to derive benefit from it, in religious circles Dr. GARDNER SPRING, author of many volumes of practical theology, will long be remembered, not only as a preacher and writer, but as having played a prominent part among the leaders of the great Presbyterian Church in difficult times.

CHARLES KNIGHT, famous in England in connection with popular instruction and with the provision of appropriate reading matter for the masses, was besides well known in the United States as the editor of Shakspeare and as the author of many useful works. Dr. W. H. MCGUFFEY, is and deserves to be remembered widely for his labors in the cause of popular education. He prepared a series of good school books.

Of the men of science who died in 1873, Baron LIEBIG, the chemist, was probably the most celebrated, at least on this side of the water. The Rev. ADAM SEDGWICK, Professor in the English University of Cambridge, was very eminent in geology, and besides exerted considerable influence in the cause of educational reform, but in this country he appears to be little known except to men of science. JOHN STUART MILL is more popular, though less practically influential here than he has been in England; his support of the North against the South having made him a favorite, and some of his books are much read. VON RAUMER, the voluminous and erudite German publicist, familiarly known by name, is not much known in reality among us.

AMADEE THIERRY, the French historian; DR. NELATON, the great French surgeon; MANZONI, the literary idol of Italy in recent times, sometimes called the Italian WALTER SCOTT; LANDSEER, the painter; Sir HENRY HOLLAND, the great traveler and physician, are all names which intelligent readers would remember in recalling the deaths of the year. And none would be more easily remembered than HIRAM POWERS and Professor AGASSIZ. Nor may Sir EDWARD BULWER LYTTON be omitted.

AN IMPORTANT distinction relative to the certification of checks has just been made by the Supreme Court of New York. Some time ago a New York merchant drew a small check on his banking house, which was raised to a much larger sum after passing out of his hands, and was altered so as to be payable to another banking firm, to whom it was offered in payment for gold. Before delivering the gold, they sent the check to the bank on which it was drawn, where it was certified. Thereupon the firm delivered the money and deposited the check in the bank. It went through the clearing house, and when the first bank discovered its false character they sued the bank from which they received it to recover the money. The referee before whom the case was tried, relying on the authorities which hold that a certification is only of the genuineness of the signature and not of the amount, gave judgment for the plaintiff. This decision the Supreme Court reverses, holding that those cases only apply where the drawer parts with his money and not on the faith of the certification. In this case they hold that the law of estoppel applies, since it was on the faith of the certification of the bank and not on trust in the simple check, that the brokers parted with their gold. The decision is of general interest to the business community at large.

CHICAGO, having had a somewhat extended experience in the voluntary depravity business, now proposes to try the compulsory honesty tack. The late disclosures concerning the disgraceful practices of some of the elevator men of that city have had a tendency to make the banks disinclined to advance money upon warehouse receipts, and consequently to impair their value as a security. Hence the warehousemen are trying to restore confidence in the amount of grain in store by inaugurating a system whereby they are to give security bonds for their receipts. Grain being the basis of credit in Chicago, and everything else being dependent upon it, it is urged that what helps the grain trade will help all other lines of business, dry goods, provisions, etc., to the benefit of the entire trade of the city. The President of the Board of Trade is strongly in favor of the measure, which he intends to discuss fully in his forthcoming annual report. We trust the plan may prove successful. Its only defect seems to be that nobody is expected to become bondsmen for the bond-givers.

The "Commercial."

[From the Ebensburg Herald.]

We unhesitatingly recommend this paper [THE COMMERCIAL] as one of the best, if not the best, printed in the State. It contains all the latest news, has the fullest market quotations, and is most ably edited. As an exchange remarks: "It is to the Republican party of Pennsylvania what the New York *Tribune* was to that party when it was the *Tribune*."

[From the Waynesburg Republican.]

The Pittsburgh COMMERCIAL is one of the leading papers of the West.

[From the Carrollton (O.) Free Press.]

The Pittsburgh COMMERCIAL is just what our merchants and other business men need. Its market reports can always be relied upon.

[From the Martin's Ferry (O.) News.]

The COMMERCIAL is one of the best and sprightliest papers published.

[From the Tidioute Daily Journal.]

The Pittsburgh COMMERCIAL is known throughout the country as one of the ablest and most enterprising newspapers in the Mississippi valley, but here, where it is a constant visitor at our firesides, it needs no recommendation. It is the first Republican paper in Western Pennsylvania, and has an editorial staff equal in ability to those of the principal dailies of the East. As a genuine newspaper it cannot be beaten anywhere.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

The beginning of the New Year is a good time in which to remember that the only true definition of Time, so far as concerns our personal connection therewith, is Life. It is simply eternity punctuated.

The Chinese attach a usage to New Year which is worthy of all respect and imitation. They pay up the last cent of their debts on the last day of the old year.

These are the days in which to make a new compact with conscience and try a fresh start on the somewhat stony path of duty.

"After life's fitfull fever, she sleeps well." The "Virginius," we mean.

The Southern States Centennial Committee are making arrangements to visit the different States in their jurisdiction.

The Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island writes poetry. This is said to be the first instance on record where a Lieutenant Governor ever did anything.

Why is the Virginius now like the clouds that lowered upon the house of Duke Gloster?

We all are one. Even the little children are compelled to bear their full share of the burdens of a panic. The size of penny pop-corn balls has been reduced.

The grand total of the pine stumpage of Wisconsin is estimated at the enormous amount of 40,000,000,000 feet. Pine grows in the forests with wonderful rapidity, and, if the above figures are not exaggerated, there is likely to be as much pine cut in that State forty years hence as during any of the recent years.

During the past year the Methodist Episcopal church has grown $4,000,000 richer, and gained over 5,000 members, making a total of 1,464,027 members and probationers.

The "Old South Church" at Boston, is to be taken down when its term of use as a post-office expires, and re-erected in some suburban locality, with all the woodwork and ornaments in place, just as they were, as a memento to coming ages of the days of the Revolution.

Milwaukee is flourishing. It is estimated that, including all branches of manufacture represented in that city, work to the amount of $27,000,000 has been produced during the past year. And the capacity for largely increasing this amount in the same time is steadily growing.

The police departments in a good many of the Southern States are looking up the murderers of the period of outlawry that came just after the war closed. There was no time to attend to them then, and often no available means at hand to bring the criminals to justice. These often occurring little episodes are very trying on wives and children who have *been blissfully ignorant* of the bloody antecedents of their husbands and fathers.

The receipts from internal revenue for December are $8,912,983, an increase of more than $500,000 over November.

The Commissioner of Internal Resources in Alabama, has prepared a report on the mineral wealth of that State, which contains valuable information for all disposed to engage in Southern enterprise.

Topeka, Kansas, will soon have extensive rolling mills at work.

A national college of the most advanced order for women is proposed at Washington, in which will be taught all branches of learning, including theology, medicine, law, art, and the sciences.

Brazil, Liberia, Spain, Holland, Belgium, and Prussia afford safe retreats for fugitive scoundrels. They can't be extracted from either of them until a new extradition treaty is made.

The total number of deaths in New York city during 1873 was slightly over 29,000. This is 3,000 less than the mortality of the previous year.

The average increase of business in the Money Order department for the past year has been about thirty-three per cent.

The amount of grain sealed up on the Erie Canal is three million bushels, principally wheat.

The Vulcan Iron Works of San Francisco are doing a great business in the manufacture of cast-iron coffins. They receive orders from all parts of the world.

It takes a good deal of food to supply the needs of New York city. Its receipts of live stock for the past year add up 442,744 beeves; 4,701 milch cows; 116,015 calves; 1,206,715 sheep and lambs, and 1,958,389 hogs.

Southern planters are beginning to introduce English sparrows on their farms, to be used as an experiment in determining how far they can rely upon them in the destruction of the cotton caterpillar.

It is reported that one of the New York morning dailies is reduced to such pecuniary straits that it will have to be sold, and that one of the evening dailies is not much better off.

The small manufacturers of cutlery in Sheffield, England, are gradually giving up business, owing to the combined clearness of fuel and raw material. It is thought that many of them will come to this country.

Such criminal negligence ought to be severely punished. The Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company made 24,068 inspections during the past year, discovering 11,998 defects, of which 2,892 were pronounced dangerous.

Chicago has done a wholesale business of $560,000,000 during 1873; a gain of 18 per cent. on the year 1872, and of 31 per cent. on the year before.

The man in the moon is no longer a nursery myth. Photography has taken an "impression" of Luna, and the picture, when put under a powerful microscope, reveals human outlines.

We are gratified to note that all over the country the stocking of streams with edible fish of the more palatable varieties is receiving a great deal of attention, not in theory only, but in practice.

Switzerland proposes to anticipate our Centennial world's fair by a similar enterprise of its own. It announces an international bazar at Geneva, in 1875.

Springfield, Mass., rejoices over the fact that its valuation this year is $37,440,820, an increase of nearly four millions since last year. But then, taxation has simultaneously increased.

PERSONAL.

Mrs. General Sherman has completed a very graceful and touching memoir of her father, the late Thomas Ewing, of Ohio.

The Cincinnati *Enquirer* has made an astonishing discovery. It announces that Pinchback's true name is Stewart, and that his father, under that designation, lives near Miamiville at the present time. The name Pinchback, it avows, "was applied as a nickname, indicating a sell and a fraud." So much for the assertion; and now why don't the *Enquirer* show its enterprise by sustaining the statement by proof?

Tom Fields told Governor Hoffman, in Brussels, recently, that he was studying extradition treaties. Genet is also engaged in the same occupation, the other side of the Canada line.

Professor John J. Brown, of the chemistry department of Syracuse University, has received the appointment of assistant astronomer for the party to be sent out by the government of the United States to take observations on the transit of Venus. He is to be gone fifteen months from next May, and will first proceed to China. Michigan University, Union College, and Syracuse University are the only colleges that have received the appointments from the government for this expedition.

Hiram Barney, (the late partner of William Allen Butler, who wrote "Nothing to Wear,") formerly Collector of New York, is now writing a life of Chief Justice Chase. Copious materials have been placed at his disposal, and it is expected that the work will be a very elaborate one.

Appleton's Journal for December has an article from Ralph Keeler, the missing New York *Tribune* correspondent, on "Put-in-Bay and the Wine Islands," illustrated by two views, written in his usual racy style.

Story, the poet and sculptor, has been studying the celebrated Elgin Marbles, attributed to Phidias. His conclusion is most emphatic that Phidias could not have been the sculptor, and his argument, which is apparently unanswerable, is given in the last *Blackwood*. It is most singular that Phidias should have been credited with them so long unquestioned, when there is hardly a particle of affirmative proof that he wrought them, and as is shown, very strong negative proof that he did not.

Tennie C. Claflin reads her title clear to a more enduring fame than she can hope to gain as second fiddler in the Woodhull free-love firm, and is going on the stage. She made her debut as "Portia" in the Merchant of Venice, to the "Shylock" of a Mr. Alfred Ayres at Bridgeport, on New Year's night, and New Haven had her last night.

John G. Whittier has declined, on account of his health, an invitation from the students of Dartmouth College, to be their poet at the next commencement.

The life of Thomas R. Patterson, a porter in a hotel of Portland, Oregon, has been somewhat romantic. He was picked up at New York, when very young, by Bennett, of the *Herald* and made a newsboy. He was afterward an important witness in the famous Helen Jewett murder trial. In 1849 he went to California, where he and his brother bought a large tract of land for $696, but they were soon dislodged from it by a man with a forged deed. A suit for its recovery was at once commenced, and was not decided until a few days ago, when the property, which has become worth $250,000, was awarded to the Pattersons.

FROM ERIE, PA.

Consecration of Rev. John F. Spaulding as Bishop of Colorado—A Chapter of Retrospection—Large Number of Bishops and Clergy Present—Solemn Ceremonies—The Sermon of Bishop Cleveland Cox—Significant Utterances.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

ERIE, PA., January 1, 1874.

When we recall the grand achievements of the fathers of the American Episcopal Church, and especially the pre-eminent successes of the last decade or so, it is not to be wondered that the same soul-inspiring cause should now, as it has in the past, in the zealous and untiring Bishop Chase and others, develop that greatness, breadth and depth of soul that, forgetting self, throws all of time into the scales and simply asks, "Master, what wilt Thou have me to do?" Of such we claim the good and self-sacrificing Rector of St. Paul's to be.

Modest to a fault, diffident and retiring as a child, and as simple in his bearing, the record of his manhood among us has been one of constant and unceasing self-forgetfulness and entire absorption in his Master's service. The world for him has had no attractions; financially and physically he has only lived for the good of others, and as the parting hour draws on apace, we know his now large and flourishing parish will deeply feel the duty, the burthen we feel to say, cast upon them.

Scarce half an hundred gathered in St. Paul's Sabbath-school, when he assumed parochial care, half a decade, about, since, while, but a few days since, at Trinity Mission Church, the fourth by his instrumentality established in that time, six score were there to claim the Christmas offering of their tutors, if not the more to join in the beautiful commemorative services of the occasion.

Yes, the first of his success, was the rebuilding of St. Paul's, for in the place of an old, dilapidated, brick structure, scarce fit to tenant, there rose the majestic and grand proportions of the present St. Paul's, a stone structure, in true Gothic style, costing, with furnishings, in fine organ, &c., some seventy-five thousand dollars. This was followed by the erection of St. John's, then "Cross and Crown," and last month by "Trinity," averaging over five hundred sittings, and all but the last, though it will soon be, we trust, self-sustaining, and with several vigorous missions in the city.

The army of scholars in their Sabbath-schools number over one thousand, three per cent. of our city's population. What does this indicate? From scarce a half hundred twenty-fold! From a weak and lifeless body to Samson proportions, and who to say it is not the fruit of well deserving soul work, blessed bommitfully, 'tis true, by Him who has promised "Ye shall not ask in vain." Midst sunshine and shadow, midst autumn-like fruitfulness and winter-blankness of experience, this lonely hearted servant has toiled and borne his cross, little dreaming that even the hour of his nomination, much less selection, was thought of, still less at hand, for other larger fields of toil and hope. God's lightning never summoned a child of His with more unexpectedness than did the call to Colorado this beloved Rector. Full of zeal, as of yore, new fields were opening to him and his band of followers—new plans for further conquests for his Master were laid, and new resources, he alone it almost seems could realize were being developed. And, as the greatest of objections to his acceptance of election seemed to be in his idea of his great unfitness, only by himself, however, entertained, so we fear will his successor, yet unknown, have cause to feel.

Yes, loth to part with his well-assured co-operators, we must bespeak for him. In the hills and mountains beyond whence he goeth, of the good people, his charge, no loss of time in acquaintance making, but that with their hearts already attuned by the self-sacrificing labors of love, of their sainted Randall, they immediately move on the enemy with unflagging confidence in him, whom God has called to lead them. Need we say his selection was the unanimous choice of the House of Bishops? Need we add the entire number have approved the selection and choice? Can we add, judging by personal knowledge of his life of sacrifice and labor, that it, too, cordially assures the choice as wise, discreet and proper to be made; as one fit and disposed to obey the Divine command, "Feed my sheep;" as one "vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach, not greedy of filthy lucre, but patient, not a brawler, not covetous, not a novice, of good report of them that are without?" We can add that we feel he will say with Paul to his Ephesian brethren, "That though bonds and afflictions abide me, none of these things move me; neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy and the ministry which I have received of the Lord Jesus to testify the gospel of the grace of God, for I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God."

From his little store, who that does not know he has always acted as if he sincerely and earnestly believed that "it was more blessed to give than to receive." Who can doubt that such zeal as his will lend "to the edifying of the church, and to the honor, praise and glory of his Master's name?" When was there ever a more peculiar calling to this ministration? Who has more diligently endeavored "to teach and exhort with wholesome doctrine" or more "diligent to banish and drive away from the church all erroneous and strange doctrine contrary to God's word, and privately and openly encouraged others to the same?" Who more an example of good works unto others? Who maintained and set forward more than he plenteous, love and peace among all men; who more gentle and merciful to poor and needy people, and to all destitute of help? Who more than he will love "to be to flock of Christ a shepherd, not a wolf; to feed them, not to devour; to hold up the weak, heal the sick, bind up the broken, bring again the outcasts, seek the lost?"

But we need only say to those who know him best and longest, look on it as of God, unsought if not undesired. Full of planned work for his city and county and counties surrounding, in some of which already the spire not alone indicates work done, but growing and vigorous Christian life.

Long before the hour arrived for the consecration, St. Paul's was crowded to its utmost capacity, and promptly at a quarter of eleven A. M., the procession of some forty priests, taen the Bishops of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Western New York and Pittsburgh, escorting Rev. John F. Spaulding, D. D., Bishop elect, marched down the center aisle and took their places, Bishop McCoskry, of Michigan, acting as presiding Bishop.

After the usual morning services, in which Revs. Scarborough, of Pittsburgh, McConnell, of Brooklyn, Getz, of Warren, and Bishops Bedell and Kerfoot participated, the latter in charge of all, the time for the sermon arrived, and with eager eyes and anxious ears did the large congregation turn toward the pulpit, whence was uttered what every churchman in the land will read with great interest.

Bishop Cleveland Cox delivered the sermon, his text being the eighth verse of the first chapter of Acts: "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me, both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." He briefly reviewed the circumstances attending this divine utterance, and then dwelt upon the historical character of the rite of laying on of hands, the completeness of authority for the apostolic office, its divine institution and unbroken preservation down to our time, speaking of its character as contrasted with that of a corporation, that regardless of its originators continued existence, holds intact all the powers and privileges originally vested.

That they were assembled to empower one among them to participate in this holy calling on Judea's hills. That Americans had occasion to thank God for it. That we lived in days of scoffing and unbelief, and that a Bishop should be a pattern of all goodness, an example of devotion and earnestness in his life of sacrifice and love for his fellows. That they believed they had chosen such an one, now to be consecrated, thus continuing what was to extend to the end of time. As the text announced the beginning and founding of this church, so now continuing so did our country have its first President and is continued. That apostles cannot lay again the foundations; to continue His deathless institution was by laying on of hands, not as lords but as shepherds over God's flock.

He spoke of this as a special call, to larger, greater fields of usefulness, making a marked tribute to the memory of the sainted Randall whose place he was to fill; that he might not live to see the fruits of his labors, but God would give the increase. That he would find the land overflowing with endless sects and schisms, and suffering for a pure and apostolic Christianity, which it would be his office to confer. Woe unto them by whom schism comes, for to reject the communion of those who thus exercise it, would bring upon them the condemnation of Christ who said "he that despiseth Him despiseth me." As to the speaker's course in relation to the Evangelical Alliance, he asked what was it but to show that they cannot occupy common ground, do not hold to the common testimony, the faith delivered to the saints. Examine the records and what do we see, but that the result of the Alliance was to give a varnish to the dark discords to encourage the discords.

That for a different purpose we meet here today. From one hundred and twenty, soon to five thousand, until now scarce a place where churchmen were not found. He spoke of Colorado as a place of great dissension, all discords in its borders and schisms in all forms abounding, society being disintegrated by them. That to this great work he believed one fit and competent had been called, and directly addressing the Bishop-elect spoke of the glorified Randall, whose place he was to fill; that to be a Bishop, indeed. Was to be an Apostle. He closed with a general charge.

This was followed by the consecration of the Bishop-elect, who was conducted from his chair in front to the chancel rail, by Bishops Talbot and Kerfoot, where he was vested with his robes, placed upon him by Revs. Scarborough and Vincent, when formally presented to the presiding Bishop, who, demanding his credentials, they were read by Rev. Coster, of Pittsburgh, standing beside the Bishop-elect, who was then required to promise conformity to the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church. The usual consecration service as given in the Book of Common Prayer was proceeded with, closing with the presentation of the Bible, and that distinguishing feature, the imposition of hands, in which Bishops Bedell of Ohio; Cox, of Western New York; Talbot, of Indiana, and Kerfoot, of Pittsburgh, joined the presiding Bishop, the candidate kneeling. This was the moment of intense interest to all, and as the plain and full utterance by Bishop McCoskry of the words "Receive the Holy Ghost for the office and work of a Bishop in the church of God, now committed unto thee by the imposition of our hands," &c., were uttered, it seemed as if, midst the dense crowding of pews and aisles all was marked as the stillness of death, as solemn if not as sad. The services closed with the communion service, in which many participated, including about fifty clergymen. In the evening a very interesting missionary meeting was held, addressed by Bishops Bedell, McCoskry, Kerfoot, and others. The second named, once the Bishop of Colorado and about all the then territories, at least of so much that he was by a brother Bishop humorously called the "Bishop of all-out-doors," made some very interesting remarks as to his experience among miners, &c., alluding to them as a more generally cultivated and educated class, when he was there, than he had thought he would find; spoke of their great desire for and appreciation of the services of the church, &c.; of his traveling to his diocese, seven thousand miles, by horse-power, only, on one trip; contrasting with the condition of to-day, Erie now only four days by rail, and Colorado comparatively near at hand. He was followed by Bishop Kerfoot, who spoke very encouragingly of the mission work of the church, of the distinguished liberality of churchmen, surpassing all other organizations in this field, but still pleading for more and larger liberality, in proportion to the needs of the hour. A liberal collection followed. These services over, a reception was held at the house of the Rector, now Bishop of Colorado. To this an admiring parish were eager to go, and notwithstanding the lateness of the hour, it was, indeed, an ovation long to be remembered. Thus closed an eventful day to very many. The parish of St. Paul's loses its beloved Rector but only to add more than it loses, to the general interests of the great mother church. Colorado gains more than words can tell, in all the great elements of a successful leader in the household of faith, and as the barque in the great ocean can move the more successfully and speedily accomplish more than in the shore-bound confines of smaller waters, so here we trow will this Captain in Israel, the more specially serve in his distant and so greatly enlarged theater. The God-speed of thousands will accompany him, and Erie churchmen, only too proud of his labors done, will ever remember in gratitude and love the eventful years of his devotion to their welfare. P.

RELIGIOUS NEWS.

Rev. Alexander Clark, who, for some days past, has been quite ill, is recovering, and will preach in the Methodist Church at Bellvue, Sabbath evening.

Rev. W. R. Coul, of Bellvue, will assist his father, Rev. John Coul, pastor of the Methodist Church, Steubenville, on Sabbath.

Rev. J. H. Hull, President of the Pittsburgh Conference of the Methodist Church, is paying his official visit to some of the churches in this city.

The dedication of the Methodist Church at McCoy's station, Ohio, took place on last Sabbath. Rev. J. B. Lucas, of this city, preached the dedicatory sermon. Twelve hundred dollars was the amount asked of the congregation to remove the debt; forty-seven dollars more than asked for were secured.

Rev. Mr. Brown, of Sloan's Station, Ohio, is having prosperity in his congregation, and is highly esteemed by his people.

Rev. H. L. Chapman, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Steubenville, Ohio, is enjoying a good degree of success in his charge. Mr. Chapman, in addition to his pastoral work, is engaged in publishing the *Methodist Preacher*.

Rev. E. K. Squire, D. D., pastor of the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Sixth avenue, has large congregations, and quite a religious interest prevails among the membership. The health of Dr. Squire is much improved, and he enters on the labor of the new year with hope of success.

In many things Christians live beneath their privileges. As this is the beginning of a new year, it seems proper that we should resolve to be earnest, patient and persevering in all Christian duty.

Charity, in order to accomplish good, must have hands to help, feet to go about doing good, eyes to weep, and a heart to sympathize with the poor and needy ones. Let each Christian have a word of comfort to whisper to the suffering. Let each one help his neighbor.

A meeting closed recently, at the Bravo appointment, resulting in eleven accessions. Fifteen were forward for prayers during the meeting. The church was strengthened and encouraged and is now in a much better condition, spiritually, than formerly.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of McKeesport, under the labors of the pastor, D. A. McCready, is again enjoying a gracious revival. Up to December 23d fifty persons had made a profession of religion.

According to recent statistics the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh is as follows: Ministers, 50; communicants, 3,876; Sunday-school teachers, 497; scholars, 4,340.

A wonderful revival prevails in the three charges of Reading, Pa. Three hundred conversions were reported recently, and the interest remains unabated.

Rev. J. Q. A. Weller, pastor of the Pittsburgh English Mission of the Evangelical Association, writes to the organ of his church that quite a gracious work of revival prevails in his charge.

During Bishop Foster's absence in Europe and South America he traveled twenty-seven thousand miles, including eighty-seven days of ocean travel. He made four trips across the Atlantic.

Rev. Dr. Byron Sunderland, pastor of a Presbyterian church in Washington, D. C., has been elected chaplain of the United States Senate, *vice* Rev. Dr. J. P. Newman, resigned by reason of his government service abroad.

Rev. J. J. Murray, pastor of the First Methodist (Protestant) Church of this city, lectured before the Young Men's Christian Association on "Conscience," with much acceptance.

Rev. L. N. Stratton, one of the editors of the *American Wesleyan*, has been seriously ill for some time, partly caused by an overworked brain. He was able to visit the office for an hour recently, according to the latest accounts.

Rev. Hugh O. Pentecost, the Baptist divine driven from his denomination on account of some unforgivable latitude in celebrating the Lord's Supper, has also inaugurated a new church—The Church of the People—in Brooklyn, New York. The new denomination "has no creed but the Bible."

On Sabbath, the 21st ult., the regular quarterly communion services were observed in the Third Church, (Rev. S. R. Frazier, pastor,) of this city. There was an accession of twenty persons, making the whole number during the year seventy-two. The condition and prospects of the congregation are very encouraging.

Bishop Peck has started from Syracuse for his return trip to the Pacific coast. He will look after the churches on his way.

Rev. A. B. Leonard, of Cincinnati, spent several days in the city, and preached last Sunday at his old charge with much acceptance.

Henry Ward Beecher, of Plymouth church, Brooklyn, has published the following statistics: "Number of members received into this church during the year, 205; dismissed, 80; average yearly admissions for twenty-six years, 136; whole number received since its organization, 3,547. In its three Sunday-schools there are 2,740 scholars, with 235 officers and teachers; average attendance for the year, 1,815. The church contributed for benevolent objects and home expenses during the year, $97,355."

Rev. J. W. Olmstead, D. D., editor of the *Watchman and Reflector*, a worthy Baptist journal, it is reported, recently not only communed with a Congregational church in London, but officiated in the services.

At the dedication of a Roman Catholic church in Green Springs, Ohio, the National flag was displayed beneath the Papal flag, which aroused the indignation of the Protestants, and a riot was threatened. The Mayor wrote to the Bishop, saying: "Please raise the American flag as high or higher than any other, and place the same on proper ground, showing the equality of the flag of the nation, and try, or take it down wholly, discarding the same." The Bishop complied with the request.

A Baltimore letter to the New York *Advocate* says that a "revival at William street M. E. Church, Rev. W. F. Ward, pastor, continues. Over one hundred souls have been born into the kingdom of Christ during the meeting. The conversations continue large, and the interest seems to be unabated. This is one of the most flourishing charges in the city. The membership, not including probationers received during the present revival, exceeds five hundred."

The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe, and the Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad Company, will not pay the January interest on their first mortgage bonds.

The Beginnings of Disease.

It is as true as that "great oaks from little acorns grow," that frightful diseases are often engendered by seemingly trifling ailments. Casual fits of indigestion superinduce chronic dyspepsia, occasional bilious attacks culminate in fixed diseases of the liver, intermittent twinges in the legs and arms degenerate into the continuous agony of acute rheumatism. Not that such disastrous consequences are inevitable. Far from it. They are attributable to neglect. A few doses of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters will always cure casual indigestion or an ordinary bilious affection, or arrest the premonitory symptoms of rheumatism. It is true that when dyspepsia, or liver complaint, or rheumatism, or constipation, or nervous debility, or sick headache has become a permanent evil, and has even baffled the skill of eminent physicians and resisted the ordinary remedies, it may still be eradicated by the Bitters; but it is easier, as Macbeth suggests, to crush the serpent's egg than the grown serpent

FINANCE AND TRADE.

FRIDAY EVENING, January 2, 1874.

We have been handed the following card, sent by a country bank to one of its correspondents here, and asked to express an opinion concerning it:

SALTSBURG BANK, }
SALTSBURG, PA., December 31, 1873. }

Collections and acceptances sent to this bank after January 1, 1874, to receive attention must be accompanied with a fee of twenty-five cents each, to be deducted from usual charge, if collection is made; and retained if collection is not made. Fee for acceptances retained in all cases.

D. S. ROBINSON, Cashier.

At first sight the above requirement might seem to the party sending out collections to be an unjust charge, but when it is remembered that of the scores of drafts sent out by city mercantile houses, drawn on their country customers, and sent for collection to the local banks, not one-half of which are paid, it will be seen that the charge is not unreasonable. For the banker receiving the drafts for collection must in the first place acknowledge receipt, which costs him in stamps and stationery. If the drawer is within reach he must be visited and notified of the collection being received, and in the majority of cases the visit is repeated several times before payment or refusal of payment is made.

If the drawer resides in the country it becomes necessary to notify him by mail, once or more times. If payment is refused, the draft must be returned by mail to the drawer, at an aggregate expense of at least the twenty-five cents asked.

As banks are established for the purpose of making a profit on their transactions, and not for charitable purposes, it is not to be expected that they should go to the trouble and expense indicated without some compensation.

Another valid reason why the banks should send a twenty-five cent piece with their collections is that, under the agreement which they entered into between themselves on the first of December last, they bound themselves to make similar charges to their depositors.

The spirit of reform is making itself felt in every department of banking business and this one, though apparently small, is one which in the course of a year will stop quite a break in the expense account.

Under the New York form of quoting the par of exchange, which went into effect on the first of this year, makes a great change in the apparent values of United States securities in London. When it is remembered that 91 15 16 as a quotation of United States 5-20's in London was equal to par in gold here, it will be understood that there is no real advance of values.

We quote United State five-twenties bonds 1865's old, 106; 1867, 106; ten-forty bonds 1034; new fives, 103; Erie Railway shares, 41; 41½. The above prices are based on the new method of reckoning the American gold. By this American funds are quoted at the rate of 4s. per dollar; not 4s. 6d., as heretofore. Paris dispatches quote rentes at 68f. 37c. In Frankfort United States five-twenties are 97¾ for the issue of 1862. The new method of quoting sterling exchange, which goes into effect with the new year, is in pursuance of an act of Congress of March 3, 1873, which provides that "all contracts made after January 1, 1874, based on an estimate of values of United States securities in Great Britain of $4 44 4-9 to the sovereign or pound sterling, shall be null and void." On the passage of this act the leading drawers of sterling here agreed to quote the pound at its actual price in American dollars; thus, instead of saying to-day that sterling is 108¾ and 109, it would be quoted at $4 84 and $4 88 gold, respectively. The new par of sterling exchange is expressed by the figures $4 80. Go-100 for the pound sterling, which is practically the Mint par. In view of these changes the London Stock Exchange have adopted for stock quotations four shillings per dollar, which is five dollars to the pound sterling. The following specimen shows the method of quoting the value of the pound sterling under the new method, as in contradistinction to the equivalent rates under the present method:

New Method.	Present Method.	New Method.	Present Method.
$4 70	105.00¾	$4 78¾	107.66¾
4 70¾	105.56¾	4 79	107.71¾
4 71	105.97¾	4 79¾	107.83¾
4 71¾	106.03¾	4 80	108.00
4 72	106 20	4 80¾	108.11¾
4 72¾	106.31¾	4 81	108.23¾
4 73	106.42¾	4 81¾	108.34¾
4 73¾	106.53¾	4 82	108.45
4 74	106.65	4 82¾	108.56¾
4 74¾	106.76¾	4 83	108.67¾
4 75	106.87¾	4 83¾	108.78¾
4 75¾	106.98¾	4 84	108.90
4 76	107.10	4 84¾	109.01¾
4 76¾	107.21¾	4 85	109.12¾
4 77	107.32¾	4 85¾	109.23¾
4 77¾	107.43¾	4 84.45 par	109.45¾
4 78	107.55		

We give the above comparative table for purposes of reference, as being of special importance now that the new method goes into operation.

—The following table shows the prices of railway stocks, gold, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange, during the day. Furnished by Gold and Stock Telegraph Company, corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street:

January 2, 1874.	10:30 A.M.	11:30 A.M.	12:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	3:30 P.M.
Gold	110¼	110¼	110¼	110¼	110¼	110¼
Custom	72	72	72	72	72	72
Western Union Telegh	78½	78½	78½	78½	78½	78½
Quicksilver	27	27	27	27	27	27
Pacific Mail	35	35¼	35¼	35¼	35¼	35¼
Adams Express		94	94	94	94	94
Wells Fargo Express		96	96	96	96	96
American Express		58	58	58	58	58
United States Express		64	64	64	64	64
New York Central	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½
Erie	41¾	41¾	41¾	41¾	41¾	41¾
Michigan Central	87½	87½	87½	87½	87½	87½
Michigan Southern	87½	87½	87½	87½	87½	87½
Illinois Central	102	102	102	102	102	102
Cleveland & Pittsburgh	93	93	93	93	93	93
Chicago & Northwestern	26½	26½	26½	26½	26½	26½
Do preferred	68½	68½	68½	68½	68½	68½
Rock Island	102½	102½	102½	102½	102½	102½
St. Paul	42	42¼	42¼	42¼	42¼	42¼
Do preferred	67½	67½	67½	67½	67½	67½
Wabash	40½	40½	40½	40½	40½	41
Do preferred	67	67				
Fort Wayne	97	97				
Ohio and Mississippi	30	30				
Union Pacific	31½	31½				
Chicago and Alton	102	102	102	102	102	102
Hannibal & St. Joseph	38½	38½	38½	38½	38½	38½
Marion	19½	19½	19½	19½	19½	19½

—The following are the quotations for Government and State bonds received by wire from New York to-day:

	Morn.	Noon.	Close.
GOVERNMENTS.			
1881, coupons	*117¾	117	117
5-20s, 1865	118¾	118¾	118¾
5-20s, 1864	114½	114½	114½
5-20s, 1865	115¾	115¾	115¾
5-20s, new	115¾	115¾	115¾
5-20s, 1867	115¾	115¾	115
5-20s, 1868	*115½	115½	114½
10-40s	111	111	111
10-40s, coupons	113¾	113¾	113¾
Currency 6s	114	114	113¾
New 6s	111½	111¾	110¾
Ex-coupon.			
STATE BONDS.			
Tennessees	79½	80	
Tennessee, new	77½		
South Carolina, July	65	1½	
Missouri 6s	90¼	90¼	

—Robinson & Co., bankers, Fourth avenue furnish the following report of active stocks at the Philadelphia Board:

Penna. R. R.	48½
Reading	32¾
Reading"	54¾
United Co's N J	116
Oil Creek	13½
Lehigh Valley	58¾
A. V. R. R. 1-80	10
Central Transportation	41¾
P., C. and St. Louis	10
Market strong.	
*Ex dividend.	

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, }
FRIDAY, January 2, 1874. }

The streets are in most miserable condition, and may so remain for days to come. It is to be hoped that the new year is to have any changes for the better in trade. There is, however, one gratifying fact to announce, which is, that the difficulty between the railroads and a portion of their employees has been satisfactorily adjusted, and the coal, both passenger and freight, are running on time, for the most part under the old and trusty employees. We notice a considerable amount of game on sale to-day, which we have not put in the appearance some days ago, but fortunately the weather was cold, so that it is in nowise damaged. We heard of several carloads of apples and potatoes on the railroads, but whether they were damaged to any extent by the frost we did not learn. As will be seen by our imports, goods are arriving more freely, and in a day or two the volume will reach the usual proportions. We have little change to note in prices, but "live in hopes" that ere long we shall be enabled to "report progress" which will be of a gratifying nature.

Below we give the receipts of the leading articles of produce received in this market by rail, river and other sources for the past 24 hours:

Flour, bbls	1,466	Apples, bbls	72
Cheese, boxes	62	Corn, sacks	300
Butter, pkgs	49	Oats, sacks	492
Rye, sacks	170	Oats, sacks	1,352
Butter, pkgs	25	Bacon, tcs	25

Below will be found the ruling wholesale rates of the market unless otherwise noted:

ALES—Brewers report a fair demand, and find no difficulty in collecting same at the following rates: X $5 ₱ bbl; XX, $9; India ale $10 ₱ bbl; Bass' English ale, in gridirons of 2 gals, $22 70@2 24; bbls, 41 gals, $42 25@44 bbls, 46 gals, $62 50@65; 4; in cases, bottles, $2 75; Wm. Youngers' India pale ale in cases of 3 doz bottles, $3 ₱ doz; Robt. Younges of sparkling ale $3 ₱ doz; Guinness stouts, bottled in A. Burke's, $3 ₱ doz; Cantrell & Cochrane's ginger ale $2 25 ₱ doz; Caswells, Hazard & Co's ginger ale $1 75 ₱ doz.

APPLES—We quote choice at $3 00@3 50 ₱ bbl; common to medium $2 50@3 00.

ARTS & BUTTER—Casks at 40@50c per gallon.

BEANS—Soda Ash, common, 3½@4c; Refined, 5c; Potash, 9c; Pearl, 10c; Arsenic, 5c; Black Lead, 6c.

BEANS—Fair to choice navy $2@2 20. Trade fair.

BRANDY—We quote peach at $2 50 ₱ gal.

BANNER BAKING POWDER—sales per doz ¼ lb cans, $1 60; ½ lb do $3 00; 1 lb do $5 50; 5 lb cans, $27 00 per dozen.

BROOM CORN—sales red and red topped 5¾@6¾c; fair to good green 5½@5¾. Hurl 9½@10c per lb.

BUTTER—Choice butter we quote at 30@32c ₱ lb; common to fair 16@25c.

BACON AND PROVISION—Extra sugar cured 9½c; breakfast bacon sugar cured, 11½c; dried beef, extra sugar cured 16½c; common shoulders, 6½c; short rib sides, 8½c; short clear sides 10c; mess pork $17 00 per bbl; lard, prime leaf in tierces 9½c; per doz; prime leaf in half bbls, 10c; prime leaf in buckets, 10½c; refined for summer use in tierces, 9½c; do in half bbls, 10c; do in buckets 10½c; refined in 3 lb caddies, 12½c; do in 5 lb caddies, 11½c; do in 3 lb pails, 13c; in 6 lb pails 12½c; ham smoked, 13c.

CANNED GOODS—Cases 2½ lb California apricots, ₱ doz, $2 25; cases 2 lb blackberries, ₱ doz, $2 25; cases 2 lb Winslow's lobsters, ₱ doz, $2 00; cases 2 lb white cherries, extra, ₱ doz, $3 75; cases 2 lb white cherries, ₱ doz, $3 00; cases 2 lb red cherries, ₱ doz, $2 15; cases 2 lb grapes, ₱ doz, $2 25; cases 2 lb gooseberries, ₱ doz, $2 25; cases 2½ lb green gages, ₱ doz, $2 75; cases 2 lb green gages, ₱ doz, $2 25; cases 2½ lb egg plums, ₱ doz, $2 75; cases 2 lb damson plums, ₱ doz, $2 25; cases 2½ lb peaches, ₱ doz, $2 50; cases 2 lb peaches, ₱ doz, $2 25; cases 2 lb pie peaches, ₱ doz, $2 25; cases 2½ lb pie peaches, ₱ doz, $2 50; cases California Bartlett pears, ₱ doz, $3 25; cases 2 lb Bartlett pears, ₱ doz, $3 75; cases 2 lb pie pears, ₱ doz, $2 25; cases 2 lb pine apple, ₱ doz, $2 00; cases 2 lb orange quinces, ₱ doz, $3 25; cases 2 lb raspberries, ₱ doz, $3 00; cases 2 lb strawberries, extra, ₱ doz, $3 75; cases 2 lb strawberries, ₱ doz, $2 50; cases 2 lb Asparagus, ₱ dozen, $1 75; cases 2 lb lima beans, ₱ doz, $2 25; cases 2 lb string beans, ₱ doz, $2 00; cases 2 lb Winslow's green corn, ₱ doz, $2 00; cases 2 lb Yamounth sugar corn, ₱ doz, $1 90; cases 2 lb Baltimore corn, ₱ doz, $1 25; cases 3 lb golden pumpkin, ₱ doz, $2 50; cases 2 lb small green peas, ₱ doz, $2 00; cases 2 lb marrowfat green peas, ₱ doz, $2 75; cases, 2 lb green peas, ₱ doz, $2 00; cases 2 lb succotash (corn and lima), ₱ doz, $2 75; cases 2 lb tomatoes ₱ doz $2 25; cases 2 lb Baltimore tomatoes ₱ doz $1 80; cases 1 lb Winslow's lobsters, ₱ doz $2 60; cases 2 lb do, ₱ doz, $3 00; cases 1 lb california fresh salmon, ₱ doz $3 25; cases 2 lb do ₱ doz $4 50; cases 1 lb winslow's spiced salmon, ₱ doz $8 50; cases 2 lb do $6 75; cases 2 lb fresh mackerel, ₱ doz, $4 50; cases 1 lb cove oysters, full, ₱ doz $1 40; cases 2 lb do $2 25; cases 1 lb cove oysters, light, ₱ doz $1 10; cases 2 lb do $2 00; cases 1 lb spiced oysters, lunch, $1 75; cases 2 do, $2 75; cases 1 lb cherry stone clams, ₱ doz $2 50; cases 2 lb do $3 50.

CARBON OIL—We are reported sales at works, f. o. b., at 11@11½c ₱ gallon, with the usual advance on small lots from stores.

CRANBERRIES—We continue to quote as follows: $10 to $13 per bbl; $3 50 to $4 per box.

CONFECTIONERY, ETC.—Sales at $7 50@8 per case of four dozen packages.

CORN MEAL—Sales at $20 ₱ ton for unbolted meal, and in a small way at $1 60 ₱ cwt., from store.

CRACKERS—Lemon biscuit 11½c; ginger snaps 12½c; oyster crackers 7c; soda crackers 7c; sugar crackers 9½c; butter crackers 7c; water do 7½c ₱ lb.

CHEESE—Seeson's Phenix $2 00@2 50; Sapsago, 25c; Limburger, $2 00@2 50; Neufchatel, $1 00@1 50; white lime ville $2 25@3 50; full cream, $1 00@1 50; skim, $2 00; calcined plaster $4 50; land plaster $3 00 @3 50.

CHEESE—The market remains quiet and prices unchanged. We quote good Ohio flats at 15@16c; prime do, 16½@17c; choice Factory, September make, 14½@ 15c; prime do, 13½@14c; fair to prime do in a jobbing way 12@13c; good to prime Factory, October make, 13@14c; Young America 16@17c; Neufchatel 17c; prime to choice Ohio Sweitzer 16@18c.

DRIED FRUIT—Sales at 5½@6½c ₱ lb.

DRIED FRUIT—Sales bright new crop apples at 7½@8c. Peaches fair to prime halves, 12@13c; quarters, 9@10c; prime to choice Ohio Sweitzer 16@18c.

DESSERT FRUIT—Sales at 5½@6½c ₱ lb in a jobbing way. Layer raisins, $2 75@3 00; Muimel 17c; prime to choice Ohio Sweitzer 16@18c.

DRIED FRUIT—Sales bright new crop apples at 7½@8c. Peaches fair to prime halves, 12@13c; quarters, 9@10c; prime to choice Ohio Sweitzer 16@18c.

EGGS—We quote strictly fresh at 31@32c per doz, packed at 18@25c.

FISH—No. 1 shore mess mackeral $35: No. 1 mess do, $28; extra No. 1 shore mackerel, $28: No. 2 shore mackerel, $17; No. 1 extra No. 1 bay mackerel, $18; No. 2 bay mackerel, $17; extra No. 2 shore mackerel, $17; No. 2 bay mackerel, $14 large No. 3 mackerel, $12 50; No. 3 mackerel, $10; split Labrador herring, $8 to $9; white fish, $7 50@8 00 lake trout, $7 00@7 50; large Georges cod fish $7@8 00; medium Georges codfish, $6 50 @7 00; red herring, scale 50c ₱ box; No. 1 35c ₱ box.

FEATHERS—No. 1 at 78@80c ₱ lb; No. 2 C, 40@75c as to quality and quantity.

FRUIT—Apples—Extra mess mackeral $35; No. 1 mess do, $28; extra No. 1 shore mackerel, $28: No. 2 shore mackerel, $17; extra No. 1 bay mackerel, $18; No. 2 bay mackerel, $17; extra No. 2 shore mackerel, $17; No. 2 bay mackerel, $14 large No. 3 mackerel, $12 50; No. 3 mackerel, $10; split Labrador herring, $8 to $9; white fish, $7 50@8 00 lake trout, $7 00@7 50; large Georges cod fish $7@8 00; medium Georges codfish, $6 50 @7 00; red herring, scale 50c ₱ box; No. 1 35c ₱ box.

FEATHERS—No. 1 at 78@80c ₱ lb; No. 2 C, 40@75c as to quality and quantity.

FLOUR—Steady; sales 3,000 bbls; No 1 $5 50@5 87½. GRAIN—Wheat—Dull and lower; No 1 spring $1 09; No 2 $1 17¾ spot or January; $1 18 seller February. No. 3 $1 14@1 14½. Corn—Dull and lower at 53¾c spot or January, 54¾c seller February. Oats—Dull and lower; No. 2 at 39½c spot or January; 40c seller February. Rye—Dull and nominal; No 1, 77c. Barley—Fall No 2 nominal; Spring No 2 at $1 11@1 18.

PROVISIONS—Pork—Dull and declined at $14 25 cash, $14 85 February. Lard steady with moderate demand at 8¾c spot, 8¾c February, 9c March. Bulk meats active and prices advanced; shoulders 5½c; short rib middles 7½c all loose. Green meats steady with moderate demand; shoulders 5½c; short rib sides 7½c; hams 10½c. Bacon steady and unchanged. Dressed Hogs—Demand fair and market firm at $6 ₱ cwt.

WHISKY—Steady with moderate demand at 93c.

New York Market.

NEW YORK, January 2.—Cotton dull; middling uplands 16¾c. Flour quiet and firm; superfine Western and State $5 10@5 60; common to good $5 70 @6 20; good to choice $6 30@7 20; white wheat extra $7 20@8 90; extra $6 90@7 20. Rye flour and corn meal unchanged. Whisky decidedly lower at 96½c. Wheat quiet and lower; Iowa spring $1 56 @1 60; No 2 spring $1 54@1 55; No 3 Milwaukee $1 46@ 1 61; No 1 do $1 62@1 64; Minnesota spring $1 56@ 1 61; northwestern $1 60, white western $1 85. Rye dull and lower at 90@92c. Barley quiet but firm. Rice quiet. Petroleum dull; crude 9½@9½c; refined 19½@19¾c. Mess pork steady; now $16 60; extra prime and cut meats unchanged; middles firmer; long and short clear 8c; short clear 8½c. Lard steady; prime steam 9 5-16@9 5-16c; February 9½@9¾c; March 9¾@9¾c. Eggs steady and unchanged. Turpentine firmer at 41c. Rosins firm; western 2½@3c. Cheese steady and unchanged.

New York Live Stock Market.

NEW YORK, January 2.—Beeves—Receipts 640, making 1,580 for four days, against 2,250 same days last week. Nothing received over Pennsylvania Railroad since Wednesday. Demand only moderate, sellers wanting a material advance which buyers are unwilling to concede; sales unimportant; a few common to fair western steers sold this city, for prime lots nominally quoted at 12@12½c; dressed beef extremely dull at 8@10c for native city dressed, and 6@7c for Chicago dressed.

Sheep and Lambs—Arrivals yesterday and to-day 3,700, making 5,446 for four days, against 5,000 same time last week. Market was fair at 5@6c for common to extra sheep, with a small bunch extra lambs at 7½c.

Swine—Receipts yesterday and to-day 5,330, making 12,200 for four days, against 13,000 same time last week. None offered; alive nominally quoted at 5½@5¾c; dressed dull at 6¼@7c for city, and 6¾@6¾c for western.

Baltimore Market.

BALTIMORE, January 2—Flour quiet and unchanged. Wheat firm; mixed western $1 80. Oats steady, with an active demand; western white 53@53c; white 53c. Rye—Demand fair and market firm at 90@95c. Provisions firmer, with a fair demand. Mess pork $16. Bulk shoulders 6½c; clear rib sides 7½c. Bacon shoulders 7¼c; clear sides 9½c. Lard—Demand fair and market firm at 9½c. Butter scarce and firm, but unchanged. Coffee very strong and unchanged.

Philadelphia Wool Market.

PHILADELPHIA, January 2.—Wool strong, with advancing tendency; stock ample; Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia double extra, and above 70@72c; extra fleece, 68@70c; choice delaine, 70c; New York, Michigan, Indiana and western fine 68@ 69c; medium 65@66c; coarse 62@63c. Combing washed 60@62c; unwashed, unwashed 55@57c. Canada combing 62@66c; fine unwashed 55@57c; coarse and medium washed 60@63c; unwashed 55@57c.

New York Dry Goods Market.

NEW YORK, January 2.—There was no movement of importance in trade to-day, and business ruled quiet in all branches. Orders for cassimeres and coatings for spring trade are now showing new samples and receiving some attention from buyers. Dark fancy prints very closely sold up by agents, and spring work not generally shown as yet. Foreign goods very dull.

Philadelphia Market.

PHILADELPHIA, January 2—Flour in fair demand; superfine $4 80@5 20; Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota extra $5 70@6 25; Indiana $5 75@6 25. Wheat quiet; red $1 63@1 68; amber $1 74@1 76; white $1 75@1 85. Rye steady at 90@92c. Corn firm; yellow 65c; new 75@80c. Oats dull at 47@48c. Crude petroleum 9½c; refined 13¾@13¾c. Whisky steady at 96c.

Milwaukee Market.

MILWAUKEE, January 2.—Flour quiet and unchanged. Wheat steady with moderate demand; No. 1 Milwaukee $1 20; No. 2, $1 17¾. Oats steady with moderate demand at 36½c. Rye steady with moderate demand; No 1, 75½c. Barley—Demand fair and market firm; fall No. 2, $1 42.

Louisville Market.

LOUISVILLE, January 2.—Cotton firmer at 15½c. Flour quiet and unchanged. Wheat steady at $1 45 at 60. Corn quiet and dull at 52c. Oats in good demand at 42c. Pork steady at $15 50. Bulk meats steady and held at 6½@7¼@8@8¾c. Bacon steady and held at 7¾@8@8½c. Lard held at 9½c. Whisky 93½ @94c.

Toledo Market.

TOLEDO, January 2.—Flour quiet and unchanged. Wheat dull and declined; No 2 white Wabash $1 50; amber Michigan $1 49, seller February $1 52; No 2 red $1 45. Corn dull and declined; high mixed 60c; new, 57½c. low mixed, 56¾c. Oats dull, lower and unchanged.

Memphis Market.

MEMPHIS, January 2.—Cotton—Demand light, but holders firm at 15½c. Flour steady at $6 00@9 50. Corn scarce and firm at 68c. Oats dull and unsettled at 55@57½c. Bulk meats nominal at 6¼@7½ 8¼c. Lard—demand fair and market firm at 9@10c.

Cleveland Market.

CLEVELAND, January 2.—Wheat dull, but unchanged. Corn dull at 62@65c; new 62@65c. Oats quiet; No. 1 State 48c; No 2 do 46c; white 49c. Petroleum steady and unchanged.

Nashville Market.

NASHVILLE, January 2.—Cotton, flour, grain and provisions quiet and unchanged. Whisky quiet at 90c.

Oswego Market.

OSWEGO, January 2.—Grain quiet and unchanged. Corn dull and nominal at 75c. Barley dull; uplake Canada $1 65; Bay Quinte $1 64.

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BALTIC	Capt. Kennedy.
REPUBLIC	Capt. Gladell.
CELTIC	Capt. Thompson
ADRIATIC	Capt. Delano.

Passage from Queenstown: Cabin (Saloon), $80 Gold; (Sailing after April 1, $100 Gold) Steerage, $30. Circulars, Prepaid Certificates, $32. Drafts in same for sale.

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MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

MOVEMENTS OF OCEAN STEAMERS.

DATE OF DEPARTURE FROM NEW YORK, 1874.

Calabria	January 7	Liverpool.
Caledonia	January 7	Liverpool.
Wisconsin	January 7	Liverpool.
Cimbria	January 8	Hamburg.
Australia	January 10	Liverpool.
St. Laurent	January 10	Havre.
Oceanic	January 10	France.
State of Penn'a	January 10	Liverpool.
City of Antwerp	January 10	Liverpool.
Canada	January 10	Liverpool.
Pembroke	January 10	Liverpool.
Wesser	January 10	Bremen.
City of New York	January 10	Liverpool.
Algeria	January 14	Liverpool.
Olympia	January 14	Liverpool.
Nevada	January 14	Liverpool.
Arragon	January 14	Bristol.
Harmonia	January 17	Hamburg.
Victoria	January 17	Liverpool.
City of Brooklyn	January 17	Liverpool.
Republic	January 17	Liverpool.
Egypt	January 17	Liverpool.
Russia	January 21	Liverpool.
Manhattan	January 21	Liverpool.
Macedonia	January 21	Liverpool.
Silesia	January 24	Hamburg.
Pereire	January 24	France.
Adriatic	January 24	Liverpool.
City of Brussels	January 24	Liverpool.
State of Virginia	January 24	Glasgow.
Erin	January 24	Liverpool.
Greece	January 24	Liverpool.
Natalia	January 27	Liverpool.
Java	January 28	Liverpool.
Wyoming	January 28	Liverpool.
Italia	January 28	Hamburg.
Celtic	January 31	Liverpool.
Anglia	January 31	Liverpool.

FROM BOSTON.

Earl King	January 10	Liverpool.
Hecla	January 10	Liverpool.
Olympus	January 17	Liverpool.
Marathon	January 24	Liverpool.
Lord Clive	January 25	Liverpool.
Partha	January 31	Liverpool.

FROM PHILADELPHIA.

Indiana	January 8	Liverpool.
Kenilworth	January 15	Liverpool.
Ohio	January 22	Liverpool.
Neuderland	January 23	Antwerp.

RIVER TELEGRAMS.

OFFICE OF OBSERVATION, }
SIGNAL SERVICE U. S. ARMY, }
PITTSBURGH, January 2, 1874. }

The following is the Daily Report of the stage of water, with changes in the twenty-four hours ending 3 P. M.:

STATIONS.	ABOVE L'W W'R Ft.	In.	DIRECT'N OF WIND.	STATE OF WEATHER
Cairo	16	0	S. E.	Cloudy.
Cincinnati	12	0	S. E.	Cloudy.
Davenport	8	0	S.	Cloudy.
Keokuk	2	0	S. E.	Cloudy.
Leavenworth	2	6	S.	Cloudy.
Dubuque	5	0	S.	Cloudy.
Louisville	3	6	S.	Cloudy.
Memphis	14	9	S. E.	Cloudy.
Nashville	7	0	S.	Cloudy.
New Orleans	5	0	S.	Cloudy.
Shreveport	4	0	S. E.	Cloudy.
Shreveport	21	8	S. W.	Cloudy.
St. Louis	11	6	S. E.	Cloudy.

*Below high-water mark.

DANIEL O'LEARY,
Observer, Signal Service, U. S. A.

Brownsville.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

BROWNSVILLE, January 2, 1874.

River stationary, seven feet in channel. Weather cloudy; thermometer at 4 P. M., 46 degrees.

Wheeling.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WHEELING, W. VA., January 2, 1874.

Cloudy and mild. River six feet two inches and falling. R. R. Hudson arrived at 12 M. No departures to-day.

For Latest River Dispatches see Fourth Page.

RIVER NEWS.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES.

Arrived.

James E. Rankin ...Cutler.....Matamoras.
Geneva.....Phillips.....Geneva.

Departed.

E. Bennett.....Carmack.....Geneva.
James E. Rankin...A. Cutler.....Matamoras.

MONONGAHELA four feet 6 inches, rising.

Boats Departing this Day.

Geneva.....West Virginia.....Donaldson, 6 A. M.
Cincinnati.....Juniata.....Brennan, 2 P. M.
Keystone.....Cincinnati.....Kimball, 5 P. M.

THE marks last evening indicated four feet four inches and rising slowly. The weather was very warm for the season, the ice and snow rapidly disappearing.

THE steamer James E. Rankin left for Matamoras, Mr. R. F. HYDE, lately of Illinois, is now river editor of the St. Louis "Republican."

WE are indebted to the officers of the steamer Exchange for a manifest. Thanks.

OUR clever friend W. S. Drayo has charge of the office of the Cincinnati packet Juniata.

THE mammoth towboat Oakland arrived at Louisville yesterday. She is en route for this city.

NAVIGATION has been resumed on the slackwater. The Bennett, Capt. Carmack, left for Geneva last evening.

THE towboat Tom. Farrow, arrived at Cincinnati on Wednesday with two barges of Kanawha coal.

THE Nashville broke her cylinder on her way from Arkansas river to Memphis, and now lies at Helena.

THE wharfage receipts at Evansville last week amounted to $430 10, not including wharfboats and tinboats.

THE punctual steamer West Virginia, Captain P. Donaldson, leaves at 6 A. M. for Brownsville and Geneva.

THE H. W. Shillinger did not leave Cincinnati for Pittsburgh as was expected. She laid over for milder weather.

ON Wednesday Pittsburgh was the coldest place in the United States, the thermometer standing at twelve degrees above zero.

A TELEGRAM to Mart Wait, of Memphis, says: The steamer Annie was sold by Gus Greenbaum Saturday at United States Marshal's sale for $1,800.

THE fine passenger steamer Juniata, Captain C. L. Brenan, takes her departure this day positively for Cincinnati and way points. The boat has the best of accommodations and careful and attentive officers.

THE Evansville "Journal" of Monday says: "The tax on the river commerce of this city during last week, not including wharfboats or tinboats, amounted to $430 10. How long will this barbarous custom prevail?"

THE punctual packet Exchange, Captain S. Shuman, is announced to leave this day for Cincinnati and Louisville. This boat is a favorite with passengers and shippers, and deservedly so. The clerks are Messrs. Vandergrift and Harbison.

THE Shannon, from Fort Smith, Arkansas river, went into New Orleans last week with 1,000 bales cotton and 767 sacks seed. She has enough of Arkansas, and is now on her way to the Ohio. Several other steamers, now up the Arkansas river, will come out as slick as a dry land sailor on his ocean voyage.

CINCINNATI.—Captain John G. Jones, Wharf Register, furnishes us with the following amount of wharfage collected during the years 1872 and 1873:

Wharfage received in 1872.....$8,377 98
Wharfage received in 1873.....8,338 45

Excess for 1873 over 1872.....$2,466 65

THE Nebraska "City Press" of the 27th says: "Capt. Joe Nanson will be in our city some time this winter. To make arrangements with our grain dealers and merchants to carry grain and freight south. With these river plans in contemplation by the railroads, and competition between Chicago and St. Louis markets, we can expect cheap freight and high prices for our products."

THE St. Louis "Democrat" says: Navigation was more nearly suspended yesterday than at any other time this winter. There was a dense mass of floating ice, and low water; and President Scudder, of the Anchor Line, had nearly determined to suspend all movement in his boats in this harbor. Heavy ice is floating below Keokuk, and out of the Missouri and Illinois.

THE Memphis "Avalanche," of Tuesday, says: Active competition for Southern bound cotton existed yesterday, and rates were as low as 75 cents per bale, six vessels bidding for all the staple that offered as follows: The Robt. Mitchell, C. B. Church, Kate Kinney, Great Republic, Sportsman, and barge 44. Each vessel received a little, and there seemed to be a disposition on the part of shippers to divide.

PASSING AWAY.—We regret to hear of the death of Captain Seandish Peppard, an old Pittsburgher and a noted river man. He died at Georgetown, Beaver county, Pa., where his family has resided for many years. He was an honorable, upright man, having a host of friends who will learn of his demise with regret. He was the first clerk of the famous packet boat "Sale," and was on her when she made her celebrated run, which to this day has never been equaled.

THE New Orleans "Picayune," of Sunday, says: "We close the week with the heaviest cotton receipts since the war, 31,000 bales up to Friday meridian. The stapl is rushing to market in unprecedented supply. Capt. Dan. Dunton has arranged to take charge of the Scooter, and will put her in the Bayou Pierre trade. The St. Dunbar and barges got off for St. Louis last night, having as part of her cargo 1,500 boxes of sugar.

MEMPHIS.—An extra crowd of darkeys and other curious individuals collected on Front Monteomery's store boat lying at Commerce, fifty miles below here last Thursday. A clown seems let in water, and the craft sunk, but within a day or two after she was pumped out and is again afloat. The boat was two or three years old, and worth over one thousand dollars. The loss was several hundred dollars' worth of goods stolen while the boat was sinking. Owners of the boat have done a profitable business for several years past, and the loss will not have a serious effect upon their means.

THE Rockford, Rock Island and St. Louis Railroad Company are going for a big share of Upper Mississippi travel in 1874. The C., D. and M. Railroad Company runs trains along the river b

CITY MATTERS.

The New City Charter.

Governor Hartranft stated to the Committee of Councils, who visited him to solicit his signature to the new city charter, that he would sign it in case Attorney General Dimmick decided that none of its provisions conflicted with the old Constitution, under which it had been passed. The Attorney General is now engaged in examining it.

The Newsboy's Dinner.

The dinner given to the newsboys and bootblacks by Mr. John W. Pittock, on New Year's day, was a complete success, of course. The attendance was larger than on any previous occasion, and nearly four hundred hungry urchins were fed. They each got a "good square meal," and enjoyed it. The Cathedral band volunteered for the occasion, and did good service.

Emancipation Anniversary.

The anniversary of the emancipation under the proclamation of President Lincoln was duly celebrated on New Year's day by the colored people of this vicinity. The various lodges and societies together with persons not members assembled in Brown chapel, Allegheny. Addresses were delivered by Prof. S. A. Neale, Rev. W. S. Langford, Rev. M. M. Bell and other.

Will Probated.

The will of William Dunn, of Plum township, was yesterday admitted to probate. The deceased bequeaths to his wife, Isabella, all his property, real and personal, including the farm in Plum township—the property to be devised to Hiram Miller Dunn, upon the death of the mother, and to the children of the said Hiram Miller Dunn at his death. The will appoints Mrs. Isabella Dunn sole executrix.

Payment of the Police.

The police pay-roll for the month of January amounts to $17,963 95. The appropriation for the year 1873 having become exhausted, cutside arrangements have to be made until the new appropriations shall have been ordered by Councils. In consequence the Police Committee will endorse the note of the chairman for the amount, and the money will thus be obtained from the banks.

Week of Prayer—First Day.

The week of prayer will commence to-morrow. The United States Branch of the Evangelical Alliance has recommended the following as the subject of the sermons to be preached the first day: The unity of the Christian Church; the real oneness of all true believers; hinderance and motives to union; the blessings to be hoped for from the union of believers in prayer—John 17: 21-23.

Sabbath School Anniversary.

The Bellvue Methodist Sabbath school had a very pleasant reunion on New Year's evening. In addition to the speeches made, music and confections, there was a presentation of a ——— box of surveyor's instruments to the organist, Mr. F. A. East, by the members of the choir and congregation. Rev. W. J. Cowl, the pastor, made the presentation and Mr. Lee S. Smith responded. The occasion was enjoyable throughout.

The St. Charles for Sale.

Attention is directed to the advertisement in another column, announcing the offer of the St. Charles Hotel, furniture, fixtures, stock, and good will for sale. The St. Charles is one of the oldest and most successful establishments of the kind in Pittsburgh, and has a wide reputation. Mr. Harry Shields, who has so long been its proprietor, and who has made it popular, desires to retire, and an opportunity is therefore offered a man of capital and capacity to get into a good business.

Prison Statistics.

Warden Smith reports that during the year 1873 there were received in the county jail 1,385 court prisoners, of whom 1,226 were males and 159 females. There were also received 4,883 prisoners on summary convictions before magistrates, of whom 1,508 were males and 335 females. Whole number received, 6,209. There were 123 prisoners in the jail at the close of the year. The commitments to the county work-house from the various magistrates are not included in the above showing.

Further Reduction of Fare.

Travelers and others contemplating taking a trip eastward will be pleased to see the latest bulletin of the Pittsburgh, Washington and Baltimore Railroad, (Connellsville route) showing a still further reduction. Passengers will now be taken to Philadelphia for only $5 50 or to New York for $8 75. First class accommodations and only sixteen hours to Philadelphia. There should be a large list of travelers at this rate and people who can should take advantage of this opporeunity.

Ministerial Association.

The Ministerial Association of Pittsburgh, Allegheny and vicinity will hold its regular monthly meeting in the lecture room of the First Presbyterian Church, Wood street, on Monday afternoon at two o'clock. Revs. W. T. Beatty, Joseph King, Dr. Murray and W. J. Reid were appointed at the last meeting to prepare papers on the following question: 'How shall we organize and marshal our churches so as to make them most effective?' After the reading of these papers there will be a general discussion of the question by the members.

Dispensary Report.

During the month of December there was issued from the Dispensary Department of the Homœopathic Hospital, seven hundred and thirty-five prescriptions to the poor of the city and vicinity, and during the month there were one hundred and fifty-three visits made to those too ill to come to the dispensary, and requiring attention at home. During the quarter, a grand total of two thousand one hundred and forty-nine prescriptions were issued. This Institution is doing a noble work in administering to the suffering poor, and should receive liberal aid from a generous public.

The Police Clothing.

A sub-committee of the Police Committee has been appointed to inquire and ascertain what disposition has or shall be made of the money in the clothing fund. The committee having the matter of contracting for the clothing for the men, the latter be responsible to the contractors, have arranged with Messrs. Lowe & Wilson, B. Oppenheimer and Jones Brothers for full suits at $30 each. The city is to furnish the buttons, which will add to the cost $1.25. The cloth is to be the same as heretofore, known as the Metropolitan Police goods. The price stands the same as heretofore. The General Committee has ratified the contract, and the members of the force are required to comply with rules that may be laid down.

Letter Carriers' Reports.

The number of letters, postal cards, papers, etc., delivered and collected by the letter carriers, during the month of December, is as follows:

	PITTSBURGH. DELIVERED	COLLECTED.
Mail Letters	164,624	132,988
Drop Letters	30,226	17,350
Mail Postal Cards	11,393	19,531
Drop Postal Cards	1,744	
Registered Letters	552	
Newspapers	68,182	8,020
	ALLEGHENY. DELIVERED.	COLLECTED.
Mail Letters	65,972	28,173
Postal Cards	3,162	3,566
Local Letters	4,467	352
Local Postal Cards	997	
Papers	40,060	1,395

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

Pittsburgh Opera House.

"Life in the Streets" will be given this afternoon and evening. This play brings out the entire strength of the stock company, is appropriate to the New-Year season, and has given good satisfaction to the many who have witnessed it during the week.

On Monday evening, we are happy to announce, Miss Clara Morris opens her engagement. The coming of Miss Morris has been the subject of bright anticipation for weeks, and will be the theatrical event of the season. She appears on Monday as *Mlle. Cleo*, in "Article 47." Her reputation, not only generally, but in this particular role, is worthy the ambition of any artiste in the land. As delineating upon the stage real life, of which the characters she assumes are the types and shadows, Miss Morris is acknowledged to be without a peer. Her engagement here cannot fail of the cordial appreciation of a public which is wont to recognize talent and reward high merit with generous patronage. We append a portion of an intelligent criticism upon Miss Morris, lately published in the Boston *Journal*:

"Discarding all the trammels of the past, freeing herself from every shackle of tradition, taking only her strong womanly instinct as her guide, and clinging close to nature, her rapid rise has been like the flight of an eagle, who knows the great strength of its pinion. There is something so intense, so glowing, so original, in her acting, that it is impossible to compare her with any other actress in America. Her voice grows husky, her eyes suffuse, there is a world of pent-up agony in every feature, and when at length she sobs aloud, the audience is inclined to weep with her. There is, with all this, a magnetism, in her every motion that almost fascinates, and rivets the attention upon her from her first entrance to her final exit."

Academy of Music.

Mr. Emmet was favored with two more overflowing houses on New Year's day, every seat and every inch of standing room being occupied. Many ladies were unable to obtain seats, and stood through the long play with soldier-like fortitude. "Fritz," with its numerous songs and solos, its laughable scenes and pathetic episodes, was received on each occasion with frequent and enthusiastic marks of approval. At his benefit, last evening, Mr. Emmet's friends turned out in full force, crowding the house up stairs and down, and giving the favorite actor a rousing welcome.

"Fritz, Our Cousin German," will have its last two representations to-day—matinee and evening. Seats should be secured in advance at Hale's music store, 103 Smithfield street, or at the Academy box office.

Trimble's Varieties.

Full attendance at every performance, is the report from Trimble's Varieties. The company is a strong one, and is handled in a masterly manner by Mr. H. W. Williams, the stage manager. The matinee will be given at the usual hour this afternoon. The bill for to-night will be of extra length and attractive.

THE WATER WORKS.

The Committee Meets and Takes Charge of Construction—Mr. John V. Duff Chosen Successor to Mr. Ross—Salary $2,000.

The Water Committee of Councils in whose hands the construction of the new Water Works has been, temporarily, placed, met last evening, Mr. Henry Lloyd presiding. Messrs. Laufman and Carroll late Water Commissioners were also present.

The ordinance transferring control of the affairs of the late commission to the Water Committee was read and the Committee accepted the works.

The Chairman stated the business of the meeting to be to decide what shall be done in the matter of electing a Secretary, approving the pay rolls of laborers on the new Water extension, and decide how the Committee will sign for water bonds to the Controller.

On motion of Mr. Hunter it was resolved to at once go into an election for Secretary.

Applications for the position were read from John T. Duff, and Captain A. McCarty.

Mr. Fulton stated that Wm. M. Gormley, of the Thirteenth ward, was also an applicant.

On motion of Capt. Chalmers, it was decided to go into nominations, whereupon the following persons were named: John T. Duff, Wm. M. Gormley, Capt. A. McCarty, Wm. A. Herron, Capt. Richard, and Geo. W. Little.

Messrs. Follansbee and Chalmers were appointed tellers.

FIRST BALLOT.

The first ballot stood as follows:

John T. Duff	5
Wm. M. Gormley	3
A. McCarthy	1
Wm. A. Herron	3
C. L. Richards	2
George W. Little	2

None of the candidates having received a majority, the committee proceeded to a

SECOND BALLOT,

with the following result:

John T. Duff	7
Wm. M. Gormley	2
Wm. A. Herron	4
C. L. Richards	2
George W. Little	0
A. McCarthy	0

MR. DUFF ELECTED.

There being still no choice, all names were dropped except those of the two highest. The committee then balloted a third time, with the following result:

Jno. T. Duff	12
Wm. A. Herron	3

Mr. Duff having received the highest number of votes, was declared elected Secretary.

SALARY $2,000.

Mr. Hunter moved to fix the salary at $2,000. Mr. Follansbee moved to amend by fixing it at $2,500. The amendment was lost, and Mr. Hunter's motion prevailed, with the understanding that if the new secretary would prove efficient, the committee would not be adverse to increasing the compensation.

It was then resolved to hold a meeting this afternoon for the purpose of passing on the bond of their new Secretary, which is fixed at $25,000, and the late Secretary, Mr. Ch. Seibert, be invited to be present at the meeting.

The regular pay rolls of the Water Commission, which includes only the old city water service, amounting to $9,027 30, were approved.

The chairman after this canvassed the committee to see how many members held over. It was found that out of the fifteen present no less than twelve held over, and as nine constituted a quorum, it was decided to hold a special meeting on Tuesday evening at half-past seven o'clock to revise and approve the pay rolls for the new water extension. This action was rendered necessary because the new Water Committee would not be appointed before Monday evening. Councils, and because the present committee were determined to be thoroughly satisfied of the accuracy of the pay rolls before affixing their approval.

The chairman having stated that the Controller refused to make any transfers of appropiation, he was instructed to draw up the note of the Committee for the amount of the pay roll.

Adjourned.

THE COAL QUESTION.

A Few Thoughts on the Subject.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

For the past six months there has been an uncalled for antagonism between the operator and the miner. The origin and cause of this, I as a miner, wish to show forth to the public.

The miners were working contentedly, making from three to five dollars per day, until the passage of what is known as the "Miners' Screen Bill." From that time enmity and trouble began between the operator and miner, which terminated in a general strike on the 25th of June, 1873.

The passage of that bill caused all the turmoil and distress of the past six months. I hope our legislators will be governed by more wisdom in the future, and not so meddle between capital and labor.

The past agitation was caused by men who were not (and I doubt very much whether they ever would be) practical miners.

But the question arises, why this agitation and strike now, because the miners have not paid for his labor according to their estimate? I say no! and I say further that there was no cause for the late trouble between the operators and miners, and I will now prove it.

The question was, what is merchantable coal? The miners' committee who went to Harrisburg, last winter, to engineer the Screen Bill, compromised with the operators, and agreed to insert and establish an "inch and a half screen," thereby virtually acknowledging that the coal passing over said screen alone was merchantable. Now I ask, what has caused the change since last winter? Will the committee please inform me?

Again, to prove my point. When the Miners' Convention ask $3 60 over the small screen, do they not acknowledge the argument used by the operators, that five cents over the large screen is an equivalent to it.

The miners' convention wishes to dictate to the operator how he shall prepare his coal for the market, but with that they have no business. The right of the miner is to sell his labor. The right of the operator is to prepare his coal to suit his market, and who shall say nay. It is time that the attention of the public was drawn to this question, to prevent suffering and misery among the miners, and a great loss to the business community.

WM. W. WAGNER.

SABBATH SCHOOL EXHIBITION.

Pleasant Occasion at Wilkinsburg.

The Sabbath school connected with the Wilkinsburg Presbyterian Church, of which the Rev. S. M. Henderson is pastor, enjoyed a rare treat on New Year's evening. The school assembled in the lecture room, or school room, which had been nicely decorated with evergreens, mottoes, wreaths, flags, etc., and after the classes had been arranged, they were marched up stairs, into the church, where a beautiful sight was presented to them. In front of the pulpit was a mammoth Christmas tree fifteen or twenty feet high, and hung with all manner of nice things for the children. It was brilliantly lighted up with wax tapers, and presented a picture not often witnessed in churches. Then, there were large tables under the tree, covered with beautiful transparent bags full of the choicest nuts and confections. It looked as though the tree had been overladen, and that the tables had caught the rich and luscious bunches as they fell from the spreading branches. After the children and parents had feasted their eyes on the tree and its fruit, some songs were sung and short addresses were delivered by the pastor, Mr. Henderson, and the superintendent, Mr. Barnes. Prof. Ludden, who has charge of the Union Sabbath school, then announced that every scholar should have a bag of candies, and the work of distribution commenced, each teacher bearing away the portion allotted to each class—and all the little folks were made accordingly happy. Mr. Barnes then marched his classes down to the school room, where they, and their parents and friends, spent a most delightful hour. After a short address from Mr. McGonnigle, the veteran Sabbath school worker, the audience was favored with a series of *tableaux vivants*, given under the direction of Professor Ludden and Mr. Barnes, and introducing a number of the little boys and girls of the school. This part of the entertainment was an after-thought of Ludden, but, although hurriedly gotten up, it proved a "strong card" as the showmen say, and "brought down the house." The children had a real jolly good time, and that was the end in view. The school is in a flourishing condition, and under its present auspices must continue to prosper.

Eighth U. P. Church Sociable.

A sociable was held at the United Presbyterian Church on New Year's evening, at which there was a large attendance of members and friends. The lecture room of the handsome edifice, corner of Locust and Van Braam streets, was handsomely decorated with evergreens, while a competent committee on refreshments did justice to their work. This was altogether the most enjoyable social gathering yet held by this rapidly increasing congregation. Though not frequently noticed in the newspapers, there is a good work steadily and quietly being done there both in church and Sabbath school, and the pastor and officers deserve commendation. The congregation have flattering prospects before them. They expect to take possession of their exceedingly neat and cheerful audience room on the third Sabbath of the present month.

The Sabbath-school, under the superior tendency of Jno. S. Lambie, Esq., is in many respects a model school. It is supplied with good corps of teachers and workers, who are to be congratulated on the success that is attending their efforts. The school had a delightful reunion on Christmas morning.

The Freehold Bank.

We direct attention to the statement of the Freehold Bank and Building Association, published on our first page. The assets show mortgages, bonds and other securities, amounting to $69,096 56; and $229,916 18 cash on hand and in bank. Add to this the real estate and furniture in the bank, and we have $317,-123 45 as the resources of the bank. The liabilities are represented by $200,000 in capital stock; $10,000 of a surplus fund; $35,315 02 for discounts and interest; and individual deposits amounting to $671,808 43. This statement shows a growing and prosperous business, and a safe and satisfactory management. All deposits are secured by first liens on real estate, and there can be no higher security than that represented by first bonds and mortgages.

THE TRIENNIAL ASSESSMENTS.

How the Returns are Being Made—The Commissioners Insisting Upon Cash Valuations.

Our readers will remember the vigorous efforts made by the county controller and the commissioners, a few months ago, to induce the triennial assessors to bring their assessments, throughout the county up, to the cash value, as required by law, and the oath to which the assessors have to subscribe before entering upon their official duties. Several meetings of the assessors were held, and the matter was freely discussed. A large majority of the assessors favored a compliance with the law, but some few of them were reluctant to depart from the ordinary course which had been pursued—which simply meant to continue the old system of assessing property at one-tenth and even one-twentieth of its value. The last triennial assessment in this county aggregated but a fraction over $44,000,000, whereas it should reach, under a fair valuation, at least $400,000,000. The Commissioners now desire to bring the assessment up to a figure approximating the sum last named, and in that case they will reduce the levy for county purposes from *ten mills to one mill*. The object is not to increase taxation, but to make each property holder pay a just proportion of the public burden. Under the present system, one man is taxed almost up to his cash value; another pays on three-fourths, and so on down in the scale, until some large land owners escape with a merely nominal tax.

Considerable anxiety has been manifested to learn, how the assessors are discharging their duties. On inquiry at the County Commissioners office, yesterday, we were informed that in a few of the assessors had made their returns, but these were generally satisfactory. This is particularly so in regard to the city districts. One or two of the rural assessors have made returns which are ridiculously low, and which will not be accepted. They have been handed back to the assessors, with instructions to comply with the law. This course will be pursued with regard to all contricts where a fair cash valuation is not made. The Commissioners have full power under the law, to increase or reduce the assessments, if they shall appear to be too low or too high. No other course would be either just or legal. It would be gross injustice to permit a lower standard in one district than in another, and the Commissioners will not tolerate any such unfairness. Those assessors who have not yet made their returns, should not hesitate to come fairly up to the work. They may rest assured that their efforts will not be unduly taxed for the benefit of others, but that a fair valuation will be required in all.

A VALUABLE APPARATUS.

Lightning Preparations for a Fire.

An item is going the rounds of the newspapers regarding an apparatus gotten up by a Connecticut fireman, whereby the horses at an engine house are unfastened, the lights turned up and the doors thrown open at the first blow of the alarm. Such an *invention has long* been in operation in our own city, and notice was made of it in these columns several months since. Mr. Joseph Busha, engineer of the Relief Engine Company, is entitled to the credit of the arrangement, which is almost perfect. The hammer of the gong, on its first motion, moves a lever and thus by a spring, draws a bolt holding the horses' stalls open, and also the door bolts. The horses are trained to take their places at once while the weights upon the doors pulls them open. Mr. Busha has recently put on the attachment to the gas pipes, and at the moment the alarm is given the light is turned on to its full force. The apparatus is very simple, and works like a charm. In this it will be seen that nothing of the kind is, when the watcher has counted the number of the box from which the alarm is coming, the other men have the horses hitched and everything in readiness to start. In other engine houses of the city there are arrangements for speedy unhitching of horses and opening of doors, but this of Mr. Busha at the Relief House is the most complete and satisfactory yet put in operation here. The Relief and the Relief Company may well be proud of their apparatus. This company is never behind time in response to calls.

Sabbath School Anniversary.

The thirty-ninth anniversary of the Sandusky Street Baptist Sabbath School, Allegheny City, will be held to-morrow (Sabbath) afternoon, commencing at 2 o'clock. Addresses will be delivered by the Rev. R. W. Pearson, Rev. Dr. Johnson, Rev. B. F. Woodburn, and John A. Myler, Esq. A report embracing a history of the year's work, will be read by the Superintendent. Music will be furnished by the Sabbath school choir, aided by the entire school.

In the evening at 7 o'clock, the anniversary exercises will be continued. Short addresses will be delivered by several of our most earnest Sabbath school workers. The public are cordially invited.

CITY MATTERS IN BRIEF.

THE Allegheny Board of School Controllers will meet on Tuesday evening next.

MAYOR BLACKMORE is improving. He was able to sign necessary warrants yesterday.

DR. J. H. HIEBER, of Penn avenue, was robbed a few days ago of a case of surgical instruments.

THE weather, the past two days, has been a great contrast with that of the same days one year ago.

ONE of the large panes of glass in the Howard block was broken by a rowdy on New Year's evening.

THE Allegheny Councils elect will meet on Tuesday evening next at 10 o'clock, for the purpose of organization.

A SLIGHT fire occurred at the Liberty Oil Works, yesterday morning. The works are located on Butler street, near the Sharpsburg bridge.

W. H. H. MURRAY, familiarly known as "Adironack" Murray, will deliver his inimitable lecture on "Deacons," in Library Hall, on Tuesday evening, January 6th.

JOHN T. DUFF, who was last evening elected Secretary of the Water Committee, in the new water works branch, is a young man well qualified for the position.

IN DEFAULT of bail Charles Moertz, of South Side, was committed for trial, yesterday morning, by Deputy Mayor Barker, on a charge of assault and battery preferred by Henry Shields.

CHAIRMAN CHAS. P. DUFF, of the Police Committee, received a vote of thanks at the final meeting on New Year's. Mr. Duff has made an excellent chairman, and the compliment was well deserved.

ANTONE KELLER was arrested yesterday, in Allegheny, on a charge of aggravated assault and battery preferred by Christopher Henrich before acting Mayor Wellle. The latter accused gave bail for his appearance at court.

THE McKeesport *Paragon* comes to us enlarged from seven to eight columns. The paper is handsomely printed, and is altogether very readable. We are glad to learn that Mr. Pritchard is succeeding well with it.

A FISTICUFF was indulged in by Samuel Fulton and Patrick Moloney, New Years day, on Liberty street, and yesterday the former made information before Alderman O'Donell charging Muloney with assault and battery.

SAMUEL A. CLARK, who was convicted last summer at Uniontown, Fayette county, of bigamy, and sentenced to one year's imprisonment in the Western Penitentiary, was released on New Years day on a pardon by Governor Hartranft.

INFORMATION was made before Deputy Mayor Salisbury, of the South Side, yesterday, by Henry Schuman, charging Anthony Fogle with assault and battery. Schuman asserts that Fogle knocked him down while in a saloon, New Year's day.

HENRY BRUNER, the salesman in Eccles' dry goods store, South Side, had a hearing yesterday morning before Alderman Mansmann, charge of embezzling goods and money from his employer. In default of $500 bail, the accused was committed for trial.

THE Democratic City Executive Committee will meet this morning at the St. Charles Hotel, to consider the question of the time of the next municipal election. It is said that arrangements will be made to put candidates in the field to be voted for next month.

"SHINNEY" OYLER, a brother of the notorious "Willie," was yesterday committed to jail by Acting Mayor Butler, to answer at court a charge of larceny. Oyler is accused of stealing the cash box of the cashier of a ball held at Turner Hall on New Year's night.

A LADY in this city informed her husband the other day, when he went home to dinner, that a book peddler had been here, this morning trying to sell the "Life of Christ' with one leg." Pater familias discovered on inquiry that it was the peddler, and not the book, that had one leg.

THE Police Committee has requested the Mayor to order one of the detective force on duty all night in the office. Heretofore, after twelve at night, there has only been a night janitor there. Occasional calls by the police telegraph or in person by citizens render this change necessary.

DR. PESSLEY will, after next Sabbath, discontinue the religious services conducted by him in Library Hall. The exposure and labor are too great for him in the winter months. He purposes (D. V.) to commence another series of the same in some suitable place early in the spring.

ON New Year's evening the United Presbyterian congregation of Sewickley had a "church sociable," which according to the report of those who were present, passed off very pleasantly and eclipsed anything of the kind that has ever been held in the Sewickley valley. Rev. D. S. Kennedy, the pastor, seems to be growing in popularity with his congregation.

YESTERDAY morning Godfried Mellaman made information before Deputy Mayor Neille, of Allegheny, charging Conrad Sill with aggravated assault and battery. It is alleged that while in a saloon, on Christmas, the latter struck Mellaman in the face, cutting it in several places and breaking his nose. Sill was arrested and gave bail for appearance at court.

BESIDES the loss of the *Methodist Recorder* by the fire in George Williams & Co.'s printing establishment, on Wednesday night, Mr. Hutchison, the owner of the building, will lose about $7,000. Messrs. Williams & Co., publishers of the *Iron World* and *Workmen's Tribune*, lose about $10,000, which was fully insured. The *People's Monthly* was printed at the place, and had paper and forms destroyed to the amount of about $900.

THE *American Manufacturer* severely criticises the "imaginative reporting" of the *Evening Telegraph*, in printing what purported to be the action of the "Pennsylvania Railroad" Company in securing a lease of the "Mount Vernon and Zanesville Railroad," etc. The *Manufacturer* states that the absurd and erroneous statement "was followed by articles on the same theme in all the other city dailies," etc. This assertion is incorrect, as the COMMERCIAL had nothing whatever on the subject. The editor of the *Manufacturer* can, therefore, take to himself some of the advice which he tenders to reporters who assert for fact what happens to be mere fiction.

THE GOVERNMENT BUILDING SITES.

Meeting of the Board of Viewers.

The viewers appointed by the Court of Common Pleas, namely, Messrs. B. F. Jones, A. H. English, Alex. Miller, James Veech, Jacob Reese, C. H. Paulson, and John D. Bailey, to value and appraise the properties proposed to be taken as a site for the new government buildings, met yesterday, in the United States District Attorney's office, and were duly sworn. B. F. Jones, Esq. was elected President, and John D. Bailey, Esq., Secretary. The petition of Mr. Swoope, as United States Attorney, together with the drafts of the property, names of owners, &c., of the sites, which it is proposed to take, were given to the viewers, and after considerable informal discussion, it was decided that the Board should meet each day at 10 o'clock A. M., and remain in session until 12 M., and to meet again at 2 P. M., and adjourn at 4 P. M., until the work assigned the Board shall have been concluded. The object of the meetings is to give the property owners an opportunity to be heard before the sites are condemned, and the interim when the Board is not in session will be spent in a personal examination of the proposed sites.

CITY FINANCES.

Controller's Report for December.

The following is a summary of the condition of the city finances at the close of the year, as appears from the monthly report of Controller Snodgrass:

Balance in treasury December 1, 1873	$ 855,297 54
Receipts for December, 1873	316,144 24
Total	$1,039,441 78
Disbursements in December, 1873	317,840 14
Balance in treasury December 1, 1873	721,601 44

DEPOSITORY ACCOUNT.

Freehold bank	$ 240,533 81
Pittsburgh Savings Bank	240,033 82
Smithfield Street Savings Bank	240,033 81
Total	721,601 44

PARNASSUS, PA.

"Tin Wedding."

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

The closing event of the year in our village was the "tin wedding" of David Alter, M. D., and his hospitable wife. Ten years ago the Doctor and his blooming bride made New Year's eve memorable in their history as they sealed the pledge of love around the hymeneal altar. Last evening they commemorated that event in the presence of three hundred guests. A table above glittered with presents of tinware sufficient to furnish duplicates to the third generation; a table below groaned under the rich burden of the viands and things of this life; a short address and fitting response were made; the village band played their sweetest; the Doctor's new residence was all alive and all agloe, "and all went merry as a marriage bell."

JANUARY 1, 1874. S. B. M.

Joy Behind the Scenes.

After the close of the performance at the Opera House on New Year's evening the thoughtful and generous managers provided the company with a supper upon the stage. The event was a pleasant oasis in the lives of ladies and gentlemen whose holidays are all too few and this social pleasures are almost wholly denied. A number of gentlemen of the city press were present by invitation and entered thoroughly into the jollity of the occasion. After supper the orchestra volunteered music for a promenade, and the company with several choice selections. There was no cessation in the round of mirth and enjoyment till ever and ever so late, when "Good Night and Happy New Year" was said with cordial appreciation of the humanizing influence of rational amusement. The Opera House company furnish a notable exception to the general rule, in the matter of good fellowship and kindly fee-ing among themselves.

Curious Incident.

On New Year's morning an enthusiastic resident of Allegheny, desiring to "ring in" the new year by the roar of musketry, took down from the pegs in the wall his forefather's Revolutionary musket. While shooting he sent a ball through the head of a sheep that was in the back yard of Mr. Samuel Palmer's residence, No. 39 Anderson street, Allegheny, into the room of the servants. The bullet pierced the lower sash without making a single crack in it that extended to the window and struck the curtain, fell harmlessly upon the bed, while some of the broken pieces of glass dropped into the open mouth of one of the fair sleepers.

STATE NEWS.

Operations will be resumed by the Williamsport foundrymen on Monday next.

George R. Coe's jewelry store in Easton was entered by burglars on Monday night, and completely cleaned out of everything valuable. The thieves carried off fully $4,000 worth of goods.

There were 412 deaths in Reading during the last six months of 1873.

A lemon grown in a Williamsport greenhouse measures inches by twelve.

A shooting match took place at Shamokin the other day for a 1,000 pound hog.

The Harrisburg death roll for 1873 bears 375 names. There were 481 deaths there in 1872.

The Scott Legion of Philadelphia has appointed the following delegates to a convention which will be held in Washington, January 15, 1874: General E. R. Biles, Colonels A. H. Reynolds, George Moore and Robert Klotz; alternate, Major William J. Mackey. The object of this convention is to appeal to Congress to grant pensions to those soldiers who were in active part in the war and secured for their country a territory of about 450,000 square miles, comprising what is now known as Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico and California.

Edward Cairey fell under a coal car at Kingston, Luzerne county, on the 29th, and was instantly killed.

Altoona entertained 508 distinguished guests at her calaboose, during the month of December.

Greenville, Mercer county, had but thirty-one deaths last year.

J. B. Miller, Esq., editor of the Uniontown *Standard*, has gone to Jacksonville, Florida, for the benefit of his health.

The cemeteries about Uniontown are said to be in a disgracefully neglected condition.

John Graham, a coal miner, died suddenly at Johnstown on the 30th ult. His age was thirty-six years.

The port of Philadelphia, since the establishment of direct lines of steamers to England and Belgium, is becoming the destination of a considerable number of immigrants. There arrived during the year just closed 3,597, of whom about one-half, 1,713 were Germans, whilst the greater portion of the balance came from Ireland and England. Above one thousand came in the vessels of the American steamship line, and the balance on the Red Star line, the Antwerp steamers of this line bringing the largest number.

The Philadelphia *Age* has changed hands, the new proprietors being Messrs. E. Morwitz & Co. In its issue of the 1st inst, it said: The ownership of the *Age* having changed to-day, its old career and record are closed. Henceforth *The New Age* will be its name, and its career that of an independent journal, free from obligations to any political organization. It will therefore uphold the right and condemn the wrong without fear or favor, irrespective of the political party that may be concerned. While paying full attention to affairs of national interest, and collecting, with increased facilities, the news of the day from all parts of the world, the *Age* will devote itself more especially to the interests of our city and State.

The venerable Joseph R. Chandler, P. G. M of Masons, now eighty-one years of age, visits the Philadelphia county prison twice daily, according to his custom for twenty-five years in his official character as inspector. Mr. Chandler represented Philadelphia in Congress from 1849 to 1855, and besides many years of editorial service, is the author of a Grammar of the English Language, and under President Johnson was Minister to Naples.

Messrs. Clark, Reeves & Co., proprietors of the Phœnixville Bridge Works, Phœnixville, Pa., says the *Scientific American*, propose to construct a wrought iron tower, one thousand feet in height, to be completed for the American Centennial Exhibition in 1876. The tower is to be circular in section, one hundred and fifty feet in diameter at the base, diminishing to thirty feet at the top. It is proposed to have spiral staircases winding around the center tube for those preferring to walk up, but elevators will be provided, which are calculated to ascend to the top in three minutes. The *Scientific American* also says that it has in process of engraving a full page illustration representing the tower in contrast with St. Peter's Cathedral, Rome; St. Paul's Cathedral, London; Bunker Hill Monument, the Pyramids of Egypt and other existing tall structures, all of which, alongside of the thousand-feet tower, look like pigmies, and pronounces this one of the greatest engineering projects of the age.

The small-pox still prevails in the vicinity of Scranton. The *Republican* says: "In a house where an illiterate, yet law-abiding citizen keeps a temperance saloon, this disease found its way. The owner of the place without giving notice to his neighbors of it presence, wrote with a lead pencil on the slave of a barrel the sign "Small Boxes." A tobacconist living near desiring to purchase some small boxes stepped in to inquire the price of the article, but was not pleased when he learned that instead of having small boxes for sale they had two real cases of small-pox in the house."

McGinness's livery stable in Columbia was entirely destroyed by fire at half-past one o'clock New Year's morning. Fifteen head of horses were burned and the wagon sheds and all the carriages destroyed. It was the work of an incendiary, who was seen to leave the stable just before the fire broke out. The stable was insured, but not the stock. Loss about $4,000.

The Pottsville *Miner's Journal* says: Mr. F. L. Foster has in his possession a sword presented to his grandfather by Gen. Lafayette. On the blade, which is short and slightly curved, are inscribed the words, "Gen. Lafayette to Daniel Foster, 1870." Mr. Foster was a sergeant in the Revolutionary army. It is through this sword and the incidents of a visit of Lafayette to his sergeant after the war, that Mr. Foster is named F. Lafayette Foster.

BY TELEGRAPH.

PLYMOUTH CHURCH.

Action of the Congregation Last Evening—The Interference of Other Churches Respectfully Declined—Mr. Bowen's Protest Reported Upon Adversely.

NEW YORK, January 2.—At the conclusion of the usual Friday evening prayer meeting at Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, to-night, Mr. Sherman, clerk of the church, read a communication which had been received from the joint committee of the Church of Pilgrims and the Clinton avenue Church, after which Mr. Beecher rose and said that he deemed it not inappropriate to take some steps for the purpose of making a reply to this letter. He had asked some of the brethern to draw up a reply, and he had also drawn up a letter of reply which he would request Professor Robert Raymond to read, and asked that it be signed by the chairman of this meeting and members of the committee and forwarded to the committee of the two churches. Professor Robert Raymond then read the reply to the communications of the committees of the Church of the Pilgrims and Clinton avenue Church. The reply admits the difference between the Congregationalism of Plymouth Church and other Congregational churches, and claims that the foundation of Plymouth Church was effected to protest against the domination of Congregational ministers, which had excited profound indignation among members of Congregational churches in the city of New York at this time. Plymouth Church has been governed by a majority of its members, which in neither of the other two churches has there ever been heard the voice of the brotherhood in open or called assembly. The attitude of Clinton avenue and the Church of Pilgrims in this controversy is characterized as unwarrantable, and Plymouth Church refuses to receive any further documents which are not accompanied by proof of the authority of the whole brotherhood of Congregational churches regularly and deliberately conferred, and they decline in any case to receive from any church letters containing covert insinuations against the character of any of the members of Plymouth Church. Plymouth Church does not decline to join in calling a mutual council, but will await a less dubious invitation. It claims that Plymouth Church can make rules for its own government and still remains Congregational, and declines to withdraw from any Congregational fellowship.

This reply was adopted, and ordered to be signed by the chairman and members of the committee and forwarded to the joint committees of both churches.

Mr. Sherman then read the report of the committee to whom was referred the protest of Henry C. Bowen. This report was to the effect that the objections raised by Bowen against the report of the Examining Committee were without foundation. Mr. Bowen not tried, he could not claim an official notice of charges. He claimed that he had never thought of authorizing anything which had the appearance of an apology. The committee made no such statement. The report closed with a resolution that the protest and this report be placed upon the records, which, with the report, was unanimously adopted. Prof. R. W. Raymond moved that the action of the last meeting in laying upon the table the statement of Mr. Halliday, in regard to the Woodhull matter, be reconsidered. After a short discussion this was adopted. Professor Raymond then offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the report of the Examining Committee and the statement of the clerk of the church concerning the case of Brother Henry C. Bowen, be entered upon the minutes, and that the facts therein set forth, the charges be dismissed and the Examining Committee be discharged from a further consideration of the case.

This was followed by considerable discussion, in which Professor Raymond, Mr. White and others participated. Mr. West, who preferred the charges against Mr. Bowen originally, seized the opportunity to volunteer a personal explanation, but his intended remarks were ruled out of order. The resolution was then adopted and the meeting adjourned to Monday evening, January 16.

CRIMES.

New Year's Day at Zanesville—One Killed and Several Wounded.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

ZANESVILLE, O., January 1, 1874.

Edward Kennedy, aged nineteen, was killed last night by being stabbed with a pocketknife by J. McCarty, a carpenter. Both parties resided in the Eighth ward. Kennedy died in about twenty minutes. McCarty claimsit was done in self-defense, as Kennedy and two others attacked him. Whisky was the cause of the trouble.

Fifty-two persons were put in the police station last night. A gang of ruffians offered insults to people coming out the prayer meeting of the Second Presbyterian Church. The police interfered, which caused great excitement. Three policemen were badly hurt.

Disposal of Railway Car Robbers.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

CANTON, O., January 1, 1874.

Stephen Morris, of Columbus, and Henry and James Lany, charged with being accomplices of George Smith, the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railway car robber, who was convicted yesterday, were on trial to-day. Morris was found guilty of grand larceny and remanded to jail to await his sentence, which will be given on Monday. Henry was acquitted, and Lany's case was continued until the next term of court.

A Villain Out of the Way.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

LAGRANGE, IND., January 2, 1874.

John Thomas, a colored man, was to-day sentenced to seven years' hard labor in the penitentiary, for committing a rape upon the person of a highly respected lady of seventy, last July in the village of Hawpath, this county.

Suicide by Oxalic Acid.

CLEVELAND, January 2.—Mrs. Ann Clark, wife of Charles Clark, living on Eagle street, committed suicide yesterday by swallowing oxalic acid. Cause unknown.